

# Date Valley School

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## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

The term "homework" is taken to include any work or activities that reinforce learning, which pupils are asked to do out of school either on their own or with parents and carers.

Through this policy we aim to:-

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensure parents / guardians have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their child.
- Improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils.
- Extend and support the learning experience through reinforcement and revision.
- Provide opportunities for parents and teachers to work in partnership.
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- Encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs.
- At year 6, to prepare children for secondary transfer.

### **The Purpose of Homework**

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and the parents / guardians of a child. To work together with parents to pursue the aims of the school.
- Allow parents to become more involved in their child learning.
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy, Numeracy and Arabic.
- Using resources for learning, of all kinds, at home.
- Extending school learning, for example through additional reading.
- Encouraging pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

### **Early Years**

- There is no formal homework set in Early Years.
- Parents are encouraged to support learning and development through fun activities that children do with parents:
  - 1) Digging in the garden.
  - 2) Visiting interesting places.
  - 3) Taking part in sports.
  - 4) Spend lots of time talking with their child.
  - 5) Read plenty of books together.
  - 6) Play lots of games together - spending quality time with the child is the very best way to help them learn and develop
  - 7) Inform the school if the child does something new or interesting.
  - 8) Communicate with the teachers if any problems or worries arise (about their child) or if they require the schools help.

### **Key Stage 1**

- At Key Stage 1, the key purpose of homework is different to that of Key Stage 2. For the younger children, homework should be a strong link between the school and parents. It is an opportunity for parents to know the areas their child is working on and it is an opportunity for the child to share their experiences.
- The teacher's role is to make sure that the homework set reflects the learning that the child is doing at school.

- The main areas to be covered for Key Stage 1 children are Literacy, Numeracy, Arabic and Quran, with a strong emphasis on reading both English and Arabic; learning the sight words; memorizing number bonds and memorizing surahs. spelling / writing in both Arabic and English.
- Worksheets given should be limited.

## **Key Stage 2**

- At Key Stage 2, the homework is to give the child the opportunity to develop the skills of independent learning and this should increasingly become its main purpose.
- Children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time to studying on their own.
- The content of the homework should increasingly cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content, with a regular weekly / monthly / termly schedule.

## **The type of homework, which is appropriate for pupils of different ages**

### **Key Stage 1**

- **Year 1** - formal written homework is not given until the middle of the second term. However this does not mean that the child should not supplement their education at home. Children are expected to focus a great deal on reading – both Arabic and English. Mental maths with recognition of number bonds is important and handwriting practise is essential. Children will be given sight words to learn and some spelling will be given from term 1. Children will also be given reading books to read to parents at home.
- **Year 2** - a simple piece of homework for literacy, numeracy and Arabic is sent home every week. This will tie in with work being done in school. Once a term, children will be given project work which will be based on another curriculum subject, but will bring in cross curricular links and skills. The project work will give parents a chance to see what else their child is learning as well as helping their child to develop very useful skills of research, investigation and independence. When project work is set, other literacy and numeracy homework will not be set, although Arabic will continue as normal. Children will also be given reading books to read to parents at home.

### **Key Stage 2**

- In Key Stage 2 the children will bring home work that revises and reinforces basic important skills in both literacy and numeracy. This will tie in with work being done in school as much as possible, but not always. Once a term, children will be given project work which will be based on another curriculum subject, but will bring in cross curricular links and skills. The project work will give parents a chance to see what else their child is learning as well as helping your child to develop very useful skills of research, investigation and independence. When project work is set, other literacy and numeracy homework will not be set, although Arabic will continue as normal. Children will also be given reading books to read to parents at home.
- Project homework will help the children to use and consolidate the following skills:-
  - Finding out information.
  - Learning how to collate the information into a readable attractive format.
  - Reading in preparation for lessons.
  - Preparing oral presentations.
  - More traditional written assignment.
- Project time should be given with clear guidelines as to what is expected of the child and approximately how much time a child should be expected to spend on the project.

## **The amount of time spent in total and management of all different areas**

The amount of time children are expected to spend on the work varies for different ages. Date Valley School has looked at the government guidelines on this but has extended the time to take account of Arabic and Quran studies. The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of tasks set and the way they are planned to support learning. However, a regular pattern is desirable, therefore the school has looked at approximately how long a child should spend doing homework weekly then daily. This has further been broken up into the areas to be covered and how long should be spent on each area. (Appendix 1)

Parents of KS1 and KS2 are given a copy of the curriculum book for the relevant year group which includes details of the type of homework that is expected and clarifies broadly how much homework children should receive in each area of the curriculum.

If a child struggles to keep up with the homework, despite spending more than the recommended allocated time on a task, parents should inform the school through the home communication book. If teachers are informed that this is the case, then a child will not be reprimanded for not completing the homework.

## **Special Educational Needs**

For some children it may be necessary to set separate homework and / or reduce the amount given. It may not be possible to cover all the areas above. However it is important that they should do as much in common with the other children as possible. It may be necessary to draw up a separate work schedule for some children with all teachers involved being aware of the child's needs. Parents should be closely involved in a case like this to help us to set the guidelines for homework. As well as a possibly reduced workload, homework may need to be thought out differently, with the following points being considered. Tasks should:-

- Have a very clear focus and time guideline.
- Give plenty of opportunities for a pupil to succeed.
- Help develop special as well as other skills where necessary.
- Be varied and not purely written assignments.
- Be manageable for teachers.

The purpose of homework for any child with Special Educational Needs should be the same as for any other child. Homework should not be seen as a way of attempting to get these pupils to catch up with the rest of the class.

## **How Homework will be planned and co-ordinated so that the demands on pupils are balanced and manageable**

- The class teacher will be responsible for ensuring that the demands on pupils and parents are manageable.
- The class teacher will work together with the principal and other teachers involved to make sure that the child is managing work set.
- Homework should be handed in on time. However if a child needs more time, this must be made clear to the teacher by the parent. If homework is not handed in and we have had no communication from the parents on three occasions, then the child will be given an infringement slip and Year 3 children will have to complete the homework during break time, Years 4-6 children may have to complete it during a detention.
- Clear guidelines will be given to all teachers and parents involved and a timetable of tasks should be followed by the teachers, parents and pupils.

## **The role of parents / guardians in supporting the child**

Parents should:-

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework, either alone or, especially for younger children, together with an adult.
- Make it clear to the children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Encourage the children in their work - not "do it for them".
- Encourage children and praise them when they complete their homework.
- Understand that quality of experience is more valuable than quantity of time spent on it.
- Listen to their child read regularly and foster an enjoyment of books right through primary.

## **Marking of homework**

The formal marking of homework is generally not done for all areas. However the teacher should indicate in some way, such as a tick, sticker etc. that she has looked at the homework and acknowledged that the child has completed it, or / and worked to the best of their ability. Some homework will at times be formally marked, such as stories or projects but this is at the discretion of the teacher.

Areas such as spelling, Quran vocabulary and Arabic vocabulary will be tested and marked every week in class and this will be sent home for the parent to view.

This policy has been read and approved for Date Valley School, by the School Principal and the Date Valley Trust Policy Committee. Date: March 2013

**Appendix 1: Homework information.**

**Year 1**

Children in year 1 do not get formal written homework during the first term and a half. Instead the focus is on the skills of mental maths, recognition of number bonds, handwriting practice and reading. The following timing for each activity is recommended

Time to be spent daily – 20 mins

<b>Literacy</b>			
<b>Reading (Alternate with Arabic)</b>	<b>Spellings</b>	<b>Memorizing sight words</b>	<b>Literacy written work (from the summer term)</b>
10 mins daily	10 mins a week	5 mins at least 3 days a week	10 to 15 mins a week
<b>Numeracy</b>			
<b>Practice number bonds / times tables</b>	<b>Numeracy written work (from the summer term)</b>		
5 mins, 3 days a week.	10 to 15 mins a week		
<b>Arabic</b>			
<b>Arabic vocabulary</b>	<b>Arabic written work</b>		
5 mins, 3 days a week	N/A		
<b>Quran and Surah memorization</b>			
10 mins, 3 days a week			

Children in Year 1 will get some very simple project work. This will come with clear guidelines and is so that the parent can get involved in all areas of the curriculum. Project work will be given once a term and will entail some simple research / art work etc. Projects should take between 4 to 6 hours.

## Year 2

Time to be spent daily – 30 mins

Literacy				Numeracy	
<b>Reading (Alternate with Arabic)</b>	<b>Spellings</b>	<b>Memorizing sight words</b>	<b>Literacy written work</b>	<b>Practice number bonds / times tables</b>	<b>Numeracy written work</b>
10 mins daily	10 mins a week	5 mins daily	15 to 20 mins a week	5 mins daily	15 to 20 mins a week
<b>Arabic</b>		<b>Quran</b>			
<b>Arabic vocabulary</b>	<b>Arabic written work</b>	<b>Surah memorization</b>			
5 mins, 3 days a week	20 mins a week.	10 mins, 3 days a week.			

Children in Year 2 will get some very simple project work. This will come with clear guidelines and is so that the parent can get involved in all areas of the curriculum. Project work will be given once a term and will entail some simple research / art work etc. Projects should take between 6 to 8 hours.

## Year 3

Time to be spent daily – 35 mins.

Literacy		Numeracy	Arabic
<b>Spellings</b>	<b>Literacy written work</b>	<b>Numeracy written work, Practice times tables / mental maths</b>	<b>Arabic spellings, vocabulary and written work</b>
15 mins a week	20 to 30 mins a week	20 to 30 mins a week	30 to 40 mins a week
<b>Quran</b>			
<b>Surah memorization</b>			
10 mins, 3 days a week			

Arabic and English reading should be done daily, alternating each and spending a minimum of 15 mins per day. Time spent on reading is not included in the homework time.

A project will be set once a term. When children have a project they will not be given any literacy or numeracy homework. Projects should take between 8 to 10 hours.

## Year 4

Time to be spent daily – 40 mins.

<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Numeracy</b>	<b>Arabic</b>
<b>Spellings</b>	<b>Literacy written work</b>	<b>Numeracy written work, Practice times tables / mental maths</b>	<b>Arabic spellings, vocabulary and written work</b>
15 mins a week	30 to 45 mins a week	30 to 45 mins a week	40 -50 mins a week
<b>Quran</b>			
<b>Surah memorization</b>			
10 mins, 3 days a week			

Both Arabic and English reading should be done daily and time spent on reading is not included in the homework time.

A project will be set once a term. When children have a project they will not be given any literacy or numeracy homework. Projects should take between 10 to 12 hours.

## Year 5 to 6

Time to be spent daily – 50 mins.

<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Numeracy</b>	<b>Arabic</b>
<b>Spellings</b>	<b>Literacy written work</b>	<b>Numeracy written work, Practice times tables / mental maths</b>	<b>Arabic spellings, vocabulary and written work</b>
15 mins a week	30 to 45 mins a week	45 to 60 mins a week	50to 60 mins a week
<b>Quran</b>			
<b>Surah memorization</b>			
10 mins daily			

Both Arabic and English reading should be done daily and time spent on reading is not included in the homework time.

A project will be set once a term. When children have a project they will not be given any literacy or numeracy homework. Projects should take between 12 to 15 hours.