

Homework Policy



HEADLANDS CE (C) J I & N SCHOOL

At Headlands, we define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. We have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Aims

The setting of well-planned homework tasks can;

- Inform parents about the current learning taking place in their child's class;
- Further stimulate pupils' enthusiasm for learning;
- Provide opportunities for children to practise and embed skills recently taught;
- Take positive advantage of the quieter home environment and provide opportunities for some good quality one to one adult time;
- Provide opportunities for children to take pride in planning, preparing and showcasing research/presentations about projects of interest and
- Help to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School and further education.

Homework at Headlands

Whilst we support all of the above aims, Headlands is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can often be very busy times for families. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a burden or source of conflict then it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice regarding this if necessary.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However, it should be noted that discreet homework registers are kept in all classrooms and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks that have been set then this will be discussed with the child and their parents. Teachers will often allocate time during the school day for these pupils to do the work, particularly if the plan is to use the outcome of the task during a future lesson. A KS2 homework club on a Monday lunchtime also provides the older pupils with an additional opportunity to complete their work with a teacher nearby to support if necessary.

Homework Routines and Expectations

All classes give out weekly homework. This often includes a piece of English and a piece of Maths homework; spelling and handwriting tasks may also be included. All pupils in school have individual reading books and it is also hoped that some of their time at home will be dedicated to practising reading and comprehension skills. Teachers will set out expectations regarding the days that homework will be set and when it should be handed in - these dates will be outlined for parents on termly year group newsletters. On occasions, homework may be set for pupils to complete during a school holiday. This will usually involve completing some research or a small project which will feed into the pupils' class work the following half term.

When homework is set, it should always have been explained and discussed in class before being sent home. At Headlands, it is always our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do. We firmly believe that parents should not be expected to teach new skills. There should be a clear description of what is expected and if appropriate, teachers are also encouraged to model the mathematical procedures that they expect the children to adopt so that they are in line with our school's calculation policies.

As far as possible, homework will be related to current class topics. We believe that this is important as it helps parents to understand more about what is going on in class and to support the children's enthusiasm for learning. Parents might, for example, find themselves supporting research about Ancient Greece, finding out about a grandparents' experience of school or measuring objects around the home. Occasionally, teachers may also set homework tasks that children are required to access online. In this instance, children and parents will be clearly directed to specific sites and interactive resources/games. In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work to complete. The revision work is always explained and discussed with parents during our SATs information evenings in the Spring term.

Storage and Marking of Homework

Each child has a homework book or folder and the majority of tasks will be kept in there. Work that needs marking (and is not feeding into other classwork) will be returned to the folder. This should happen each week. The tasks set will not always need to be handed in; there are many other ways in which teachers will respond or give feedback, for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work onto a display or transferring work into class books. We expect children to maintain the same standards of presentation for homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best cursive handwriting and a sharp pencil or blue/black pen.

Concerns or Complaints

If parents find the homework inappropriate for their child, if it becomes a battle to get them to complete it or if they are concerned that homework is given inconsistently we would always encourage them to speak to their child's current class teacher in the first instance.