



We work together to nurture an inclusive family of hard-working, respectful individuals who have a lifelong love of learning.

“Life in all its fullness” (John 10:10)

HOMEWORK POLICY

‘Homework’ refers to any activities or pieces of work which children are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with their parents.

Aims

- ✓ To extend school learning
- ✓ To develop an effective partnership between home and school
- ✓ To encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to work on their own, preparing them for the requirements of secondary school

Objectives

- ✓ To provide homework to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- ✓ To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences

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- ✓ To provide an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning as they become older
- ✓ To ensure the needs of the individual children are taken into account
- ✓ To prepare children in Year 6 for transfer to secondary school
- ✓ To ensure that all parents have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves

Types of Homework and Time Allocation

For the younger children the emphasis is very much on the basic skills – reading, spelling, writing, number facts. Regular reading to and with parents is essential if progress is to be made, especially at this early age. We ask parents to listen to their children read on a daily basis to support the work we do in school. As the children move up the school the focus remains on literacy and numeracy, especially spellings, grammar and rote learning of key number facts. Older children are encouraged to develop the skills of independence to work on their own to both benefit their learning and prepare them for the demands of homework at secondary school.

As a school we suggest the following time allocation for each age group:

Years 1 and 2	1 hour each week
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours each week
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes each day

Reception

At this early age the emphasis is very much upon actively involving the parents in their children's learning. When the children first start school, parents are encouraged to support their children with phonics and reading activities, linked to the phonics the children have been learning in school. As the school year progresses, a variety of short homework tasks linked to Literacy (including spellings), Mathematics and 'Topic' work are sent home for the children to complete with parental support.

Key stage 1

Children are expected to read on a daily basis; to practise their statutory spellings and mathematical instant recall facts and to complete English and maths tasks set weekly. Spellings and mathematical instant recall facts are assessed in a variety of ways – not necessarily as a weekly 'test'. Reading completed with your child should be recorded in their reading record.

Key stage 2

Children are expected to read on a daily basis; to practise their statutory spellings and mathematical instant recall facts and to complete English and Maths tasks set weekly. Project based homework is given half termly. Year 6 children are also expected to carry out revision for end of key stage SATs.

Spellings and mathematical instant recall facts are assessed in a variety of ways – not necessarily as a weekly 'test'. Homework diaries are used in Years 4, 5 and 6 in preparation for transfer to secondary school.

Individual Needs of Children

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All homework should be appropriate for the differing needs of the children. Some of the more able children require homework which is set to challenge them whereas other children require work to reinforce skills they have learnt in school. Children with special educational needs may occasionally benefit from being given work which is different from that which is given to the rest of the class or group. If this is the case, they should not be expected to complete work set for the rest of the class in addition to their individually differentiated work.

Having taken into account the needs of the children, all homework tasks should also –

- ✓ Have a clear objective and time scale
- ✓ Allow for all children to succeed
- ✓ Help to develop social skills in addition to other skills
- ✓ Be varied
- ✓ Be manageable for teachers and children
- ✓ Be multi-sensory whenever possible
- ✓ Involve speaking and listening/alternative methods of recording

Responsibilities

The Governors

It is the responsibility of the governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. The governing body may, at any time, request from the head teacher a report on the way homework is organised in the school. The homework policy will be reviewed every two years. Where significant changes to the policy are felt to be required, proposals will be presented to the governing body and parents consulted via questionnaires.

The Class Teacher

Each class teacher should ensure that the amount and demands of the homework are manageable on a day to day basis

At the beginning of every academic year, the teachers of each year group produce a letter to be sent home to the parents of the children within the year group informing them of the types of homework their children will receive that year, how much time they will be expected to spend on it and the days on which the work is to be given out and handed in. This letter will also be used as an opportunity to explain to parents how they can best help their children in relation to homework. Further discussions may take place during parent consultations and class teachers will always provide support to parents on an individual basis.

The Child

Each child should be made aware of the importance of homework and the expectations of the school concerning completing the work and returning it to school on time. It is essential work is handed in on time as otherwise it does not allow sufficient time for staff to mark the work before books are given out again. The children should ensure all work is well presented and checked through for careless errors.

The Parent

All parents should be encouraged to –

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Make it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school in its aims regarding homework.

Praise their child on completing their work.

Provide a quiet place in which their child can work on their homework either alone or with their support.

It might be that on occasions a piece of homework involves discussion. In such a case there is no requirement for parents/the child to make a detailed written record of the content of the discussion, although brief written feedback is welcomed.

Guidelines on how long should be spent each day on homework are provided in this policy. If the work is not completed within the time allowed, the child should be encouraged to leave the piece of work and return it to school unfinished. If there are any issues or questions regarding homework, these should be raised in the first instance with the class teacher. If parents wish to make a complaint about the Policy or the way in which it is implemented, they should do so in writing in accordance with the School Complaints Policy.

Home/School Agreement

All new parents receive a copy of the homework home/school contract when their child begins at Embsay School. The contract outlines the aims of the school with regards to homework and asks for the parents' support in meeting these aims. They are asked to sign and return the contract to school.

Feedback and Marking

Where work is done together with parents, children often receive immediate feedback on what they are doing. In the case of work they complete on their own, it is important that they be given feedback as soon as possible. This may be through comments or class rewards or the outcome of tests eg. spelling and tables tests or simply through discussion with their teacher on written pieces of work. Homework (or children's attitude to it) can also be rewarded through certificates in Friday sharing assemblies.

Storage of Homework

Most pieces of homework are stored in a homework book or folder.

Approved by the Governing Body: November 2024

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