



Abbey Primary School

## ABBAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

### HOMEWORK POLICY

#### THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

It is the policy of Abbey Primary School that all pupils should receive homework because:-

- (a) it plays a valuable role in consolidating and reinforcing the skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy, which have been developed at school;
- (b) it is an important part of the liaison between home and school;
- (c) it strengthens the educational partnership between parents and teachers by developing and sustaining the involvement of parents in the management of pupils' learning;
- (d) it provides a means by which parents can be informed about the work pupils are doing and by which they can monitor their child's progress;
- (e) it can extend school learning, for example through additional reading;
- (f) it can exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home;
- (g) it encourages pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation to study effectively on their own.

#### THE FORM OF HOMEWORK

The form of homework will change as children get older. At KS1, the key purpose is to develop a partnership with parents and to involve them actively in children's learning. Therefore the activities given (e.g. games, spellings, number facts) because they are not written, may be perceived by some parents as being unimportant or lacking value yet they are essential facets of the learning process.

As children get older, the main purpose will increasingly become an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. In primary education the main focus of home activities should be on literacy and numeracy, with science and other subjects being added as the children move up the school. By primary seven the homework programme should have a regular weekly schedule and cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content. This range should include homework which requires them to find information, prepare for oral presentations and undertake written assignments. An investigative piece of work might be given to allow the child to explore a subject further or to work with his/her parents in a more creative way

## **FEEDBACK**

All homework tasks should be given effective marking and feedback which is fundamental to making progress.

## **THE AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK**

Homework tasks will usually be set by the individual class teacher but in most cases the amount and content will have been agreed by all teachers in the year group under the direction of the year group leader.

In the years of Key Stage 1, homework times should vary between 10 minutes at P1 and 30 minutes in P4. Homework will consist of reading, revision of new words and graded written activities in English and Mathematics. At P3 - P4 the learning of spellings and tables will be included. From time to time, homework of an investigative nature may be given.

In Key Stage 2 i.e. P5 - P7 the amount of time to be taken will vary according to the type of work being set, but in general we would expect the time to vary from approximately 40 minutes for P5 to one hour for P7. Homework at this level will usually consist of Spelling and Tables, Reading and Written English and Mathematics exercises. Other subject areas such as History, Geography and Science are also used regularly for Homework activities. On occasions other work such as research, investigations or art work might be given.

**If a child has difficulty with homework or takes significantly longer than the suggested time, parents should contact the class teacher to discuss the problems involved.**

## **THE ROLE OF PARENTS**

Parents have an **absolutely vital role** in the successful implementation of homework. Above all the children need parental time. In the modern fast moving world, time is often a precious commodity but time spent at homework with the children is vital not only for their education but for family relationships.

In general terms parents are encouraged to:-

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place for doing homework;
- make it clear to children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress;
- expect deadlines to be met and check that they are;
- give praise for the completion of homework
- accept that sanctions will be imposed on children who have not completed homework without good cause.

Specifically we would ask parents to:-

- check the schoolbag (particularly P1 & P2) and homework diary (from P3 upwards) each evening to find out what tasks have been set
- listen to Reading and talk about what has been read;
- ask Spellings and Tables;
- check written homework, ensuring that the task has been completed satisfactorily;
- sign the homework and homework diary (as appropriate) each evening.

## **Monitoring & evaluating the policy**

Year groups should monitor the effectiveness of homework procedure in their classes and the contribution which homework is making to the progress of the children. The Senior Management Team will seek to monitor the effectiveness of homework through the work of each key stage.

## **HOMEWORK IS IMPORTANT**

Your child should attempt as much as possible on his own but --

### **TIME SPENT:-**

**LISTENING** to your child

**TALKING** to your child

**READING** to your child

**EXPLAINING** to your child

**ENCOURAGING** your child

is **TIME WELL SPENT**