Fairhaven C of E V.A Primary School

Homework Policy

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Date for Review: Autumn 2026

Signed R Whiles **Date** 21 March 2024

Chair of Governors

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Vision Statement

Our Christian school community strives to provide a variety of learning experiences for all our young people. We are here to nurture the gifts God gives us and to celebrate our differences. We encourage our pupils to explore their interests, find their talents, flourish and live life to the full. We want our children to live great lives and ultimately make a difference in the world.

Belief – Friendship – Diversity - Achieve

Statement of Intent

We believe that independent learning is a skill that should be developed and a discipline that needs to be practised from an early age. Homework plays an important part in developing independent study; therefore, homework should be set each week. We give careful consideration to ensure homework is well-balanced across the school.

We also believe that it is important for children to have out of school interests, and for them to have time to be able to take part in extra-curricular activities. Such activities could include: Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows, Brownies, swimming, dancing, musical instrument practice, football, cricket, drama productions or after school clubs provided by Fairhaven Primary School. These experiences help young people to develop and enrich their lives.

We encourage our pupils to explore their interests,
find their talents, flourish and live life to the full.

Aims of Homework Policy

This policy aims to:

- Develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- Make sure that teaching staff, parents/carers and pupils are aware of their responsibilites with regard to homework.
- Ensure that parents/carers understand what is expected of their child.
- Encourage pupils to develop the responsibility and self-discipine required for independent study.
- Embed knowledge and support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforchment.

- Work with parents/carers and involve them in their child's learning, and keep them informed about the work their child is undertaking.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Extend learning beyond the classroom.
- Give pupils further practise so that they have a deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.

This policy considers good practice guidance including, but not limited to:

- Ofsted (2019) School inspection handbook – section 8
- DfE (2019) Ways to reduce workload in your school

In 2019 Ofsted removed the grade criteria relating to setting homework from its School Inspection Handbook. Whilst Ofsted will not look directly at the school's specific approach, we recognise that homework is a vital tool in embedding knowledge and gauging understanding. Our school's approach to homework reflects a balance between using homework effectively to embed pupils' knowledge and ensuring that staff do not use an unnecessary amount of time setting and marking homework.

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Home School Agreement
- Marking Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

Aims and Objectives of Homework

The setting of homework aims to:

- Provide pupils with opportunities to become more responsible for their own learning.
- Enable pupils to gain greater independence and self-discipline.
- Teach pupils to value their own achievements.
- Embed the pupil's knowledge and understanding of the school curriculum.

Homework will also:

- Provide an opportunity to strengthen the home-school partnership by encouraging parents to be involved in their children's learning in a sharing and supportive role.
- Give the pupils an opportunity to assess their learning and reflect on their work. It is essential that homework is a child's own work and is not completed by parents or tutors.
- Gradually prepare pupils for the more rigorous demands they will encounter in Key Stage 3 at High School.

- Where staff feel it would be of benefit for an individual pupil to be set additional homework this would happen following discussions with the parents/carers and the pupil.

The School's Responsibility

The school will only set homework that is fair, reasonable and not over-burdening for a pupil, while being appropriate to a child's age and stage of development. It will have educational value and complement work done in school. It will help pupils become independent learners. The amount of homework set will differ, according to the age of the pupils.

The school will provide parents with information about homework at the beginning of each academic year in September. Pupils and parents / carers who join the school during the school year will be informed about homework expectations on admission.

Teachers are responsible for:

- Planning and setting up a regular programme of homework for pupils.
- Providing an explanation of homework tasks and ensuring that all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Setting homework that is appropriate to pupils' abilities.
- Marking homework and giving feedback to pupils, either verbally or in written format.
- Communicating with parents/carers if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Being available to parents/carers and pupils for a discussion about homework.
- Rewarding quality work and praising pupils who regularly complete homework.

The Pupil's Responsibility

Pupils are responsible for:

- Ensuring that they have everything they need to complete homework.
- Making sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seeking clarification if required.
- Taking a responsibility for their learning and submitting completed work in a timely manner.
- Having a positive approach towards homework.
- Work to the best of their ability and ensure that the work produced at home reaches the same standard as that of their schoolwork.
- Taking pride in the presentation and content of their homework and performing to the best of their ability.
- Complete the work themselves without excessive support.

Parent / Carer's Responsibility

Co-operation between home and school is essential and this is an opportunity to strengthen the home-school partnership.

Parents / carers are responsible for:

- Supporting and encouraging their child with regards to completing homework.
- Making sure that children have a quiet comfortable area to work, as free from other distractions as possible. For writing activities children need to sit at a table.
- Becoming involved in their child's homework and encouraging their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Making sure that homework is done in a careful and considered manner and handed in at the correct time.
- Providing children with the necessary equipment, such as a sharp pencil and ruler, a handwriting pen for older pupils and a dictionary. A jar of small coins would also help with money related tasks.
- Praising their child and celebrating achievements regarding their homework.
- Informing teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operate with the school to find a solution.

- Keeping the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and ability to complete homework effectively.

Homework Schedule

The table below shows expected weekly homework tasks.

Year Group	Homework	Maximum Time	Total per week
R	• Picture library book – reading for pleasure • Phonic Sounds Book • Reading book – from Spring Term onwards	15 mins 15 mins	30 minutes
1	• Picture library book – reading for pleasure • Reading book • Spelling practice – weekly word list • Numeracy – 1 piece per week	10 mins x 3 15 mins 15 mins	1 hour
2	• Reading book – reading for pleasure • Reading scheme book • Reading comprehension – 1 piece per week • Spelling practice – weekly word list • Numeracy – 1 piece per week	10 mins x 3 15 mins 15 mins 15 mins	1 hour and 15 mins
3 & 4	• Library book – reading for pleasure • Reading scheme book • English homework • Spelling practice – weekly word list • Numeracy – 1 piece per week	10 mins x 3 30 mins 15 mins 30 mins	1 hour and 45 minutes
5 & 6	• Reading book – reading for pleasure • Reading scheme book	15 mins x 3	2 hours

	• Reading comprehension – 1 piece per week • Spelling and Grammar practice • Numeracy – 1 piece per week	30 mins 20 mins 30 mins	

Reading for Pleasure

The school library is open for all children, and we encourage all the children throughout the school to take a book home to read for pleasure. The picture book library is especially suitable for EYFS and Key Stage 1 children, but all children are welcome to use it. Children in Key Stage 2 can choose a fiction or non-fiction book. There is a carousel of books specifically for Year 6 children. The content and reading level of these books might not be suitable for the younger children.

Reading Scheme Books

Children are required to take a reading scheme book home each day and read together with an adult at home **at least three times per week**. These books are closely matched to each child's reading ability. All children benefit from being read to by an adult.

Spellings

Spellings are set and sent home each week for children to learn. Each week the class teacher will hold an informal spelling test. Children will self-mark their words.

Numeracy

From Year 1 onwards, pupils are set a weekly piece of mathematical homework. This work will follow on from the learning in class during the week. Each half term the children also focus on a Key Instant Recall Fact (KIRF). These are taught in school, although a home learning sheet is also provided.

Foundation Subjects

In Key Stage 2, homework for foundation subjects may be set each half term. This will normally be set as a research project and pupils are encouraged to present their information in a creative and imaginative way. In Key Stage 1, this is on an optional basis.

Homework Folders and Google Classroom

All pupils are given a homework folder at the beginning of the academic year. Pupils are encouraged to place homework inside the folders so that their homework is kept neat and tidy. Printed homework sheets are given out to Key Stage 2 pupils. Teaching assistants will put home tasks in folders for EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils.

Some homework activities are also uploaded to Google Classroom where pupils and parents / carers can view homework tasks. Some tasks may be set as an assignment on Google Classroom. The school may also set homework on other online platforms such as Spag.com, Times Tables Rockstars and SATs Companion.

Pupils who fail to complete homework

- All pupils are expected to complete homework on time.
- Teachers keep records of pupils completing homework.
- If pupils fail to complete homework on a regular basis, the class teacher will contact parents/carers to discuss the reason and offer support.
- Pupils who find completing homework at home will be given an opportunity to complete tasks in school. In preparation for secondary school, pupils in Years 5 and 6 will be required to complete their homework within their social time at school, if not completed at home.

Marking Homework

- Homework may be marked in a variety of ways, in accordance with the school's Marking Policy.
- Homework may be marked in writing and when appropriate comments are made concerning the pupil's next steps.
- Homework may be marked orally with the pupil or class.

- Teachers do not mark homework that is handed in late.

Pupils with SEND

- A balanced approach to homework will be adopted for pupils with SEND, in consultation with the pupil's parents/carers and the SENCO.
- The school recognises that pupils with SEND may require specific tasks to be set, as outlined in their Individual Learning Plans.
- While pupils with SEND may benefit from scaffolded tasks separate from the homework received by other pupils, it is important that they also complete as much standard homework as possible.

Equal Opportunities

- The school is committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity and social, cultural or religious background.
- All pupils have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability.

Monitoring and review

- This policy is reviewed every three years by the Headteacher.

The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2026.