



Daubeney Middle School

Homework Policy

Rationale

We expect all pupils to do homework, the amount increasing as the pupils progress through the school.

The Purpose of Homework

Through this policy we aim to:-

- develop and provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in an effective partnership;
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school, particularly in literacy, numeracy and ICT;
- extend school learning, for example, through additional reading;
- encourage pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own;
- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account.

The Type and Amount of Homework

Homework does not just mean formal exercises carried out by pupils without help from adults. Involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which can be very brief, is most valuable in promoting children's learning. The main focus of homework for pupils in Years 5 and 6 should be on literacy and numeracy. Regular reading is vital. Reading practice and listening to others read is essential. This should take between 10 and 20 minutes each day. Other literacy related homework will include learning spellings and practising correct punctuation. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 should build on the skills and knowledge they have acquired in the lower part of the school.

All homework should have a clear focus and a time guideline. It will give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed and at times will help develop social as well as academic skills.

Homework should be differentiated where appropriate to take account of individual pupil's needs and might include:-

- independent/guided research;
- reading in preparation for lessons;
- preparing oral presentations;
- more traditional written assignments;
- find out the use of mathematics in everyday situations;
- problem solving;
- investigative activities;
- more traditional mathematical tasks;
- designing;
- making;
- revision;
- preparing for subsequent lessons.

Pupils should be told how to complete homework and that high standards are expected for homework assignments.

General Guidelines

Year 5:	Literacy and Numeracy
Year 6:	Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Reading and Tables
Years 7 and 8:	All subjects

Homework Planning

Each Year Group has a homework timetable and each pupil has a Personal Organiser.

It is the responsibility of the subject teacher to set homework as indicated in the homework timetable.

It is the responsibility of the Subject Co-ordinator to ensure that all members of their department are aware of the specific needs of their subject re: homework and that it is integral to their Schemes of Work. They will also need to monitor and evaluate the homework set for their subject to ensure the demands on pupils are even and balanced.

This will be done by:

- ensuring homework is included in S.O.W;
- checking pupils' exercise books.

There must be sufficient time set aside during the lesson for setting homework, to allow pupils time to ask questions and where possible, if appropriate, to give modelled answers.

Homework should be marked as quickly as possible and the pupils given appropriate feedback. Comments should identify ways individual pupils can improve and where appropriate targets set so that they can achieve the next level of attainment identified in the National Curriculum Programmes of Study.

It is the responsibility of the subject tutors to contact the parents of pupils who persistently fail to hand in homework. If the situation does not improve the Year Co-ordinator, Subject Co-ordinator and the Deputy Headteacher may be involved if necessary.

In School Homework Support Facilities

The Library is open during the lunchtime for pupils to carry out research and to complete homework.

The Role of Parents and Carers in Supporting Pupils

Parents and carers should:

- provide a reasonably peaceful and suitable place in which their child can do their homework;
- make it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- expect their child to meet the deadlines set by the school;
- encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework;
- sign the child's Personal Organiser weekly.

Review

The Homework Policy is to be reviewed by the SMT and Year Co-ordinators.