

"At Hilltop Infant School, everyone will work together in a nurturing environment to provide each child with challenging opportunities that encourage a desire for life-long learning."



Hilltop Infant School Homework Policy

Ratified by the Governing Body Spring 2011

Signature John Young

Chair of Governors

Due for review 2012

We believe that children achieve more when there is an effective partnership between parents, carers and school.

The purposes of homework include:

- Developing effective partnership between home/school.
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- Extending school learning
- Exploiting resources for learning, of all kinds, at home. This includes e-portfolio and other on-line resources where appropriate

Through the policy we will aim to:

- Provide opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to work together and to enjoy learning experiences.
- Ensure consistency of approach across year groups.
- Ensure progression towards independence.
- Ensure the needs of individuals are taken into account.
- Ensure parents/carers are clear about their role and expectations of themselves and pupils.

“Homework,” refers to any work or activities, including reading, that children are asked to do at home on their own or with an adult. Short activities provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive environment. Activities may be practical e.g. playing board games, reading games or written.

Feedback for pupils may be from:

- Parents/carers on completion of a task,
- A class discussion,
- Written feedback.
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Teachers will be pleased to receive feedback from parents/carers on how their child coped with activities set.

We believe that:

For children at Key Stage 1 , homework should very largely consist of regular reading with parents/carers, looking at books together.

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of tasks set and the way they are planned to support learning.

Homework in Years 1 and 2 should take about an hour a week in total. **This includes reading practice.** Regular, daily reading practice is more beneficial than one or two long sessions during the week.

How will homework be arranged?

Class teachers will be responsible for planning homework for their class. Ideas may also be sent out in newsletters to parents and carers or in leaflets relating to a specific area e.g. reading. A lending library for games is also available (Fridays after school during the spring and summer terms). Teachers are happy to discuss homework activities and parental involvement if parents and carers are unsure about how to support their child in the best way. In years 1 and 2, information about homework will be found in home/school diaries. Where we are aware that parents or carers may need additional support with understanding homework activities, staff will arrange to meet with them on an individual basis.

We hope parents and carers will try to:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place for homework
- support the school by encouraging children to complete tasks
- provide lots of praise and encouragement for all efforts
- read with children on a regular basis and fill in the reading diary
- provide immediate feedback to children
- attend curriculum meetings and workshops organised by the school to find out more about ways of helping children at home
- liaise with teachers about homework by writing in the home/school diary or speaking to school staff

Early Years Foundation Stage (reception classes):

In reception classes, teachers select appropriate activities for the class e.g. learning sight vocabulary and letter sounds using a robot game. Individual activities may be planned and explained to parents and carers verbally or in writing.

Activities may include:

- regular shared reading activities (including library books)
- word/sentence work based on class activities using key words
- reinforcement of sounds
- activities relating to topic work
- letter formation

Year 1:

(Tasks will usually be given to the children with written instructions but on occasions children will be encouraged to remember oral instructions).

Activities may include:

- regular reading activities, (including library books)
- word games to develop sight vocabulary
- maths activities to consolidate work covered in class
- activities relating to topic work
- handwriting
- holiday diary

Year 2:

(Tasks will usually be given to the children with written instructions but, more frequently, children will be encouraged to remember oral instructions).

- regular shared reading or silent reading where appropriate
- spellings to learn using Look, Cover, Write and Check method
- book reviews
- maths activities to consolidate topics covered in class
- holiday diary
- activities to support topic work
- handwriting
- maths games

Monitoring:

This policy was developed after consultation with staff, parents, carers and governors. The headteacher will be responsible for monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of homework. Feedback from parents/carers is welcomed at any time in written form or by making an appointment to see the headteacher. The Policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.