



BISHOP SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

1. Rationale:

This policy responds to the national requirement on schools to ensure that all homework set has a demonstrably positive impact on children's learning. It is designed in the context of the school's 'Learning without Limits' principles, designed to develop independent and creative learners who take a pride in their work and have a passion for learning.

2. Purpose and Aims:

The school believes that homework can be an effective tool in helping to:

- Raise children's level of attainment
- Consolidate and reinforce key skills
- Inspire a passion for deepening and broadening learning in a range of areas
- Develop independence, perseverance, initiative and self-discipline
- Improve personal organisation, time management and presentation skills
- Prepare children in Upper Juniors for the demands and expectations of High School
- Develop effective partnership working between the school and parents in the development of children's learning

The school recognises that children need time to rest and to take part in other activities when not in school and that homework should not place unreasonable demands on children or their families. We believe that HW is most effective when approached imaginatively, with an emphasis on choice and creativity, and doesn't become too much of a chore. We recognise that children have different levels of support at home and that our expectations shouldn't put unfair pressure on those with limited resources.

3. Expectations of Children / Parents:

Children will be set the following homework. It is expected that parents will support their children by providing a suitable space and time for HW, reminding children if necessary, and taking part in shared reading and other paired activities. However, it is important that adults do not complete the children's work for them or give them too much help, as this can be counter-productive.

EYFS and KS1 (Reception, Y1, Y2):

1. Sharing books with an adult daily
2. Reading the school scheme books but also being read to from picture books and other text types
3. Learning letter names and sounds and some common words

In addition to the above, children in these year groups will also take part in home-school activities such as the cookery bag. Opportunities for class presentations (show and tell or book and tell with parents) will also be provided.

KS2 (Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6):

1. Reading daily and recording in reading diary
2. Learning Logs - independent topic work to demonstrate a range of learning skills. Children will have a wide choice in how they demonstrate the required skills and can explore the areas of work that interest them most. Challenges will be provided to stretch and inspire children of all abilities.
3. Class Presentations
4. Revision / Practice tasks in preparation for SATs tests (Y6)

Children in all year groups may also be asked to take part in paired or group activities at home e.g. watching or discussing the news, maths games, preparing a meal, completing a survey etc.

Maths and English exercises are not given as part of regular homework as these have not proved to be very effective in helping children's learning. However, learning logs will contain many elements of key skills such as reading, writing and problem-solving.

5. Expectations of the School:

- a. All homework will be marked, with useful and meaningful feedback to help children improve
- b. The deadlines for every piece of homework will be made clear to children and parents
- c. Expectations of any joint activity with parents will be made clear and guidance provided in writing
- d. Information about HW will be provided on the website

6. Targeted and Additional Homework:

a. HW to assist children in meeting targets

Where children are having difficulty in meeting their learning objectives or are struggling with a particular area of work, targeted HW may be set in consultation with the child and parents. If this work involves maths methods that are unfamiliar to parents, clear explanation and examples will be provided. This HW, once agreed, will be compulsory and clear deadlines set. Consequences for not meeting these deadlines will be determined at the discretion of the class teacher in consultation with parents.

b. Compulsory additional HW

Where children do not make a reasonable effort to meet the requirements of lessons, they may be asked to complete the work in their own time, either at break time or at home.

7. Enforcement:

Reading is compulsory. In KS2, failure to read frequently enough will result in sanctions in accordance with the school's behaviour management system. In EYFS and KS1, parents will be asked to come in to discuss the issue if reading is not frequent enough. All other HW (apart from HW described in section 6) is optional. Children are given encouragement and incentives to complete their learning logs and class presentations to a high standard. The scope they are given to explore their particular interests, means that the vast majority will complete a good standard of work voluntarily. Where this is not the case, it is likely that the child may be struggling in key areas and homework as described in section 6(a) will apply.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

- a) Learning Logs will clearly identify the skills demonstrated across a range of curriculum areas. Feedback will include suggestions for the next skills to be covered, where there are gaps.
- b) Reading records will be checked weekly and feedback will include suggestions for alternative texts or different levels as appropriate. Reading progress is tracked regularly and where there is slow progress, additional reading objectives may be set.

Policy agreed by staff: 3rd September 2013

Policy approved by Governors: 23rd September 2013

Policy to be reviewed: September 2014