Bellfield Primary School



**Homework Policy**

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Date Issued: January 2019

Ratified by Governing Body:

Review Date: January 2021

**What is Homework?**

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Bellfield Primary we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing a strong partnership.

Although non-statutory, Bellfield chooses to set homework and there is reference made to the setting of homework in the Ofsted Inspection Framework.

**Why give homework?**

Homework is a hotly-debated subject and there are many different views about the contribution it makes to a pupils’ overall learning. We provide homework because we believe:

* It can inform parents about work that is going in in class;
* It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
* It takes advantage of the home environment and resources, and it provides the opportunity for some one-to-one adult time;
* It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with other pupils;
* It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skill such as times tables, spellings, reading and other key areas;
* It helps to foster good habits and prepares pupils for the demands of Secondary School.

**Homework at our school**

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, we do not want homework to dominate home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children’s and parents’ imagination and that weekends and evenings can sometimes be extremely busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict, it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that should be spent on a task/activity, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Class teachers are always willing to provide advice and support with this.

We hope children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks/activities themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work.

We have obtained the views of all stakeholders with regards to the type of homework we set.

**Our routines and expectations**

It has been agreed that every class will complete the following ‘homework’ each week, which focuses on the key skills children need to practice regularly:

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| Reception | * Daily reading (focussing on phonic skills)
* Monster words – to be practiced and rehearsed
* 6 termly challenges (optional)
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| Classes 1-6 | * Daily reading (at least 4 times per week)
* Spelling lists – to be practiced and rehearsed (these are tested in school)
* Maths arithmetic activity
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Class teachers will identify the times tables relevant to the year group and inform parents of this. They will send home activities which help children learn these in a range of different ways.

Homework in the form of worksheets will be given out by the class teacher on a Friday and will be due in by the following Friday, giving a whole week to complete. Children will be tested on their spellings and times tables on a Friday. We understand that family time is precious and have therefore taken the decision not to expect homework to be completed over the weekends and/or holiday periods (unless you wish to do this). We will, however, continue to set ‘learning challenges/family projects’ over the holidays but THESE ARE OPTIONAL. We know that some families enjoy this aspect of homework and want to encourage this to still take place.

In addition, we encourage parents to use the ‘Activity Passport’ for the relevant year group for their child to expose children to a wide range of experiences and activities. These can be found on our website under the ‘Parents – Homework’ tab. If you haven’t heard of this before, the Government have developed a list of key activities/experiences for each year group, which they believe will support them with their learning and social skills.

We also know that some parents want to do more with their children at home to encourage life-long learning. We appreciate this and so there are also links available on each class page of the website (under the ‘Parents – Homework tab’), which offer further activities to consolidate learning from that week in both English and Maths.

**What to do if you have concerns**

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if your child struggles with it, please make contact with your child’s teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please follow the schools flow-chart.

Reviewer: Head