



The Coppice Primary School Homework Policy

Statement of Intent

‘Happy, Confident and Successful Learners..... Well Prepared for Life’
(The Coppice Primary School vision statement)

At The Coppice we value the contribution homework makes to realising our vision, accordingly we have produced this homework policy to help optimise the impact of homework.

Aims

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear, shared understanding regarding expectations for homework
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are all fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework

What is the purpose of homework?

- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy, and provide opportunities for parents and children to work together
- To give parents the opportunity to support their children's learning
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school

What do OFSTED say about homework?

Oftsed Evaluation schedule September 2012

*“When evaluating the quality of teaching in the school, inspectors **must** consider: the extent to which teachers enable pupils to develop the skills to learn for themselves, where appropriate, including setting appropriate homework to develop their understanding.”*

Ofsted grade descriptors for an ‘Outstanding’ judgement:

“Appropriate and regular homework contributes very well to pupils’ learning.”

The type and amount of homework

We make homework purposeful, having a particular focus on using homework to move children's learning on. That is why homework often links to children's individual targets. This gives parents the opportunity to make a difference to their children's progress in learning by assisting children in achieving these targets.

Homework tasks may vary according to age, ability and curriculum being studied. Please see the guidance for your child's Year Group in the appendix to this policy. All homework tasks and activities are designed to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding in numeracy and literacy and enhance cross curricular teaching.

A variety of homework tasks are given to meet planned learning objectives. These can include:

- Speaking and listening activities
- Reading
- Spelling and word investigations
- Book reviews
- Reading comprehension
- Independent research
- Practical maths investigations
- Collecting items linked to a theme
- Skills practice across a range of areas
- Data collection
- Educational games

Responsibilities

For homework to be at its most effective, it is important that the child, the parent and the teacher are clear about their roles and responsibilities:-

Children are responsible for:

- Returning homework by the set day
- Asking if they do not understand the task
- Completing all of the activities to the best of their ability – keeping to the expected standard

The teacher is responsible for:

- Setting tasks which match the ability of the child
- Ensuring the homework is acknowledged or marked, so providing feedback to the child
- Explaining tasks clearly – giving the children the opportunity to check understanding
- Providing further support when needed
- Regularly checking the homework diary (signing)

How parents can help:

- Provide a conducive environment for children to work in
- Spend time talking to children about homework to support them, and encourage them
- Communicate to the teacher if homework has become a challenge for any reason
- Provide the equipment e.g. pencils, rulers, to complete the task
- Regularly checking the homework diary

How can parents find out more information about homework?

If parents need advice on how to support their children with homework then they can write comments in the homework book/ sheet or talk to the class teacher. The Department for Education has produced “Getting into Homework – ten top tips for homework survival”. This pack has been designed to help parents help their children with their learning and is available to download on the school website.

Feedback and Marking

Children should be given feedback on their homework. It should be given in a way that lets the child know how well they have done and how they could improve. This may not always happen through written comments from the teacher. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons, to either individuals or a larger group, or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work.

Marking can be done by children:

- To encourage independent learning through self-checking
- To enhance the child's self-esteem
- To aid teacher assessment

What happens when children do not complete homework?

The expectation is that children will complete homework. Teachers will keep records of children who complete homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. In Juniors children can be asked to stay in at break times to complete unfinished homework or to improve work that falls below the expected standard of work.

If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to children or parents to find out why.

THE COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL **EYFS Homework guidance for Parents / Carers**

Why do we need homework?

During these important years, homework helps to reinforce work done in the classroom, gives you an insight into work being covered in school, and gives us all an indication of the understanding of the different areas of learning. In addition, it gives parents the opportunity to support their children's learning, empowering them regarding helping to keep their children on track with the rest of the class.

Under what conditions should homework be done?

All homework should be completed in a peaceful environment, with the television, radio and music off. Ideally, there should be no distractions and it should be done when your child is not over-tired.

What type of homework is given?

In Nursery, children are encouraged to choose a book to share with their family over the weekend. Reception children are given books to take home every week to read with their parents. We also ask parents to support their child by practising letters and sounds as they are introduced at school through our phonics programme and we also send some high frequency words to learn to read, then later to write. Additional homework may be sent home relating to your child's target or topic work. All homework will be explained on our weekly newsletter.

For how long should my child be doing homework?

The emphasis is on how homework helps your child to learn, rather than whether it takes a certain amount of time. For example, some children will work quicker than others and get more done in less time. A rough guide would be an hour a week.

Thank you in anticipation of your support

THE COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL **Key Stage 1 Homework guidance for Parents / Carers**

Why do we need homework?

During these important years, homework helps to reinforce work done in the classroom, gives you an insight into work being covered in school, and gives us all an indication of the understanding of the different areas of learning. In addition, it gives parents the opportunity to support their children's learning, empowering them regarding helping to keep their children on track with the rest of the class.

Under what conditions should homework be done?

All homework should be completed in a peaceful environment, with the television, radio and music off. Ideally, there should be no distractions and it should be done when your child is not over-tired.

What type of homework will my child be doing?

Each week the following things will be sent home:

Year 1

- Weekly 'Big Maths' sheets will be sent home; linking directly to individual children's targets
- A phonics sheet related to the sound being taught; keeping parents informed and giving them opportunity to work with these with their children
- Topic homework is set fortnightly (usually with a literacy focus)
- Daily reading book; two comments per week is expected from each child in their communication book.

Year 2

- Weekly Big Maths sheets will be sent home; linking to individual children's targets
- The Lower ability children (those going to Reception / Yr1 phonics groups) take home a sheet related to the sound being taught; keeping parents informed and giving them opportunity to work with these with their children
- Maths or Literacy homework is set weekly (usually alternated). In literacy this usually links to our topic and in maths it supports an aspect taught that week (differentiated).
- Daily reading book; three comments per week is expected from each child/ parent in their communication book
- Five tricky words are added to the Year 2 weekly newsletter for children to work on at home.

If your child has been working on a task for over fifteen minutes, please indicate this underneath his/ her work.

What is the role of the parent/ carer in homework?

If your child is experiencing difficulty completing homework, please do give assistance but obviously nothing will be achieved if the homework is done for them. Please ensure reading is done every night and that any spellings given are learnt over the week. Homework should be completed to the same standard that is expected in class. We would appreciate your help in ensuring that each piece of work is named (where appropriate), dated, titled, and then underlined using a ruler. The work should not be rushed and writing and digits should be neat and legible. In line with school policy, all homework should be signed by an adult to show that you are satisfied that it has been completed to an acceptable standard.

Thank you for your support

Thank you in anticipation of your support

Accepted by The Coppice Governing Body June 2013

Appendix 3

THE COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL **Years 3 and 4 Homework guidance for Parents / Carers**

Why do we need homework?

During these important years, homework helps to reinforce work done in the classroom, gives you an insight into work being covered in school, and gives us all an indication of the understanding of the different areas of learning. In addition, it gives parents the opportunity to support their children's learning, empowering them regarding helping to keep their children on track with the rest of the class.

What equipment do we need?

Every pupil will need a pencil or blue pen (ONLY if they use one in school) for literacy and a pencil for numeracy. A ruler will also be required for underlining dates and titles or drawing lines. Access to a dictionary/thesaurus either in book or online form would be useful.

For how long should my child be doing homework?

In Years 3 and 4, the expected minimum total time that pupils are required to spend on homework is one and a half hours per week. This will be broken down as follows: 10 minutes of reading each night for five nights; 20 minutes a week learning spellings (the amount of spellings to learn will be set according to ability) and completing a set number of sentences linked to these spellings; and 20 minutes mathematics work a week related to reviewing the two (Year 3) or three (Year 4) highlighted mathematics targets that the children bring home every week plus exploring further related questions to these targets in order to extend understanding.

Occasionally **all** children **may** be asked to complete additional topic related homework if it is felt that that this will enhance further their knowledge or enjoyment of the topic.

What is the role of the parent/ carer in homework?

If your child is experiencing difficulty completing homework, please do give assistance but obviously nothing will be achieved if the homework is done for them. If your child is struggling and becoming upset with any aspect of their homework please stop what they are doing and contact your child's Class Teacher. It is really important that any difficulties your child encounters with the homework set are drawn to the attention of your child's Class Teacher at the earliest opportunity through your child's diary (see below).

Homework should be completed to the same standard that is expected in class. Therefore, we would appreciate your help in ensuring that each piece of work is named, dated, titled, and then underlined using a ruler. The work should not be rushed and writing and digits should be neat and legible.

At the start of the year, **all** children are provided with a diary in which you and your child

can make comments and record concerns related to the homework set. We would also expect that the diary will be signed weekly by an adult in order to show that the homework has been completed and that you are satisfied that it has been done to an acceptable standard.

Finally, we appreciate that the above timings are an expected minimum. However, we also appreciate that many children choose to do more homework because they are interested in what they are doing or want to challenge themselves further and we actively encourage this! We hope all of the above is clear. However, should you feel you need clarification on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Year 3 or Year 4 staff or Phase Leader Mr.Hutt. We will be only too pleased to help!

Thank you in anticipation of your support

Appendix 4

THE COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL **Years 5 and 6 Homework guidance for Parents / Carers**

Why do we need homework?

During these important years, homework helps to reinforce work done in the classroom, gives you an insight into work being covered in school, and gives us all an indication of the understanding of the different areas of learning. In addition, it gives parents the opportunity to support their children's learning, empowering them regarding helping to keep their children on track with the rest of the class.

What equipment do we need?

Every pupil will need a pencil or blue pen (ONLY if they use one in school) for literacy and a pencil for numeracy. A ruler will also be required for underlining dates and titles or drawing lines. Access to a dictionary/thesaurus either in book or online form would be useful.

For how long should my child be doing homework?

In Years 5 and 6, the expected minimum total time that pupils are required to spend on homework is two hours per week. This will be broken down as follows: 10 minutes of reading each night for five nights; 20 minutes a week learning spellings (the amount of spellings to learn will be set according to ability) and completing a set number of sentences linked to these spellings; and 30 minutes mathematics homework as well as 20 minutes mathematics work a week related to reviewing the three highlighted mathematics targets that the children bring home every week plus exploring further related questions to these targets in order to extend understanding.

Occasionally **all** children **may** be asked to complete additional topic related homework if it is felt that that this will enhance further their knowledge or enjoyment of the topic.

In addition to the above, on the 'run up' to SATs, Year 6 will have extra reinforcement/revision homework.

What is the role of the parent/ carer in homework?

If your child is experiencing difficulty completing homework, please do give assistance but obviously nothing will be achieved if the homework is done for them. If your child is struggling and becoming upset with any aspect of their homework please stop what they are doing and contact your child's Class Teacher. It is really important that any difficulties your child encounters with the homework set are drawn to the attention of your child's Class Teacher at the earliest opportunity through your child's diary (see below).

Homework should be completed to the same standard that is expected in class. Therefore, we would appreciate your help in ensuring that each piece of work is named, dated, titled,

and then underlined using a ruler. The work should not be rushed and writing and digits should be neat and legible.

At the start of the year, **all** children are provided with a diary in which you and your child can make comments and record concerns related to the homework set. We would also expect that the diary will be signed weekly by an adult in order to show that the homework has been completed and that you are satisfied that it has been done to an acceptable standard.

Finally, we appreciate that the above timings are an expected minimum. However, we also appreciate that many children choose to do more homework because they are interested in what they are doing or want to challenge themselves further and we actively encourage this! We hope all of the above is clear. However, should you feel you need clarification on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Year 5 or Year 6 staff or Phase Leader. We will be only too pleased to help!

Thank you in anticipation of your support