



Glen Hills Primary School

Homework Policy

INTRODUCTION

The following is taken from the Department for Education's *Homework: Guidelines for Primary Schools* November 1998: "homework does not just mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Particularly in the case of younger children, it is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which can be very brief, which is most valuable in promoting children's learning."

This document has been drawn up by staff and the Glen Hills Curriculum Committee using the above document and advice from Leicestershire LA. Our Home School Agreement outlines the strong relationship that Glen Hills, the parent/s or carers and the pupil will continue to develop together and a key aspect of this is the importance we place on homework.

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

- To encourage every pupil to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study and work independently and thus prepare them for the requirements of secondary school and their future life.
- To develop an effective partnership between the school, pupils and their parents and other carers in delivering the aims of the school;
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy;
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading materials e.g. books, comics, magazines, newspapers, fiction/non-fiction, every day materials such as signs, shop names, labels etc.;

AIMS

Reception/Key Stage 1

Our main aim in Reception and Key Stage 1 is to develop a strong partnership with parents and to involve them actively in children's learning. The homework children do at this age may not be described by us as 'homework' i.e. but rather constitute short activities of different kinds - simple games, learning spellings and number facts, bringing items from home or doing simple research to support topic work and of course reading together. All these 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. We do not advocate formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Everyday practice with reading and spelling and counting is **vital** for children in Key Stage 1.

Key Stage 2

Regular reading to and with parents or carers continues to be vital at this stage. KS2 pupils are expected to complete homework in their Creative Learning books which provide pupils with the

opportunity to approach homework tasks in a variety of exciting and imaginative ways. We will also ensure maths and English homework is regularly provided.

All activities are designed to meet the individual needs of each pupil. This might include finding out information, building models, preparing oral presentations and mathematical investigations.

Recommended Daily Time for Homework

These guidelines follow advice from the Government.

	Reading (per day)	Other Subject Areas including times tables and spellings
Reception	10 mins	10 mins
Years 1 and 2	15 mins	10 mins
Years 3 and 4	20 mins	20 mins
Year 5	20 mins	30 mins

At Glen Hills we take a flexible approach to these guidelines in order to encourage the many out of school activities in which many of our children are involved. Children may not thus always be given daily homework: activities may form longer assignments that may spread over a week or longer. We ask, however, all parents to adhere to the daily reading requirements of the children at both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. We strongly recommend that all parents encourage children, by both direction and example, to enrol in their local library and to read books from them as well as those from school.

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

For Reception / Key Stage 1 we endeavour to:

- Recommend suitable home activities for our children and provide a range of appropriate reading materials.
- Provide parents with brief outlines of topics that are being studied each term.
- Plan activities to support the learning of focus words for reading, spelling and writing.
- Ensure that all children have a home/school reading record card.
- Every child can access our online VLE (Virtual Learning Environment). This provides extra online resources for the pupils to use to support their homework. Should a child not have access to the internet at home, we endeavour to provide time in school where they can access their VLE page to explore the site. As an alternative, we will signpost use of the internet facilities at our local Glen Hills library or other libraries within the locality.

For Key Stage 2 we endeavour to:

- Set weekly homework across the curriculum
- Plan regular homework to facilitate the learning of spellings and multiplication tables
- Inform parents of termly areas of special study.
- Provide all children with home/school reading record book.
- Plan homework to reinforce classroom learning.
- Indicate when parental help will be needed.
- Every child can access our online VLE (Virtual Learning Environment). This provides extra online resources for the pupils to use to support their homework. Should a child not have access to the internet at home, we endeavour to provide time in school where they can access their VLE page to explore the site. As an alternative, we will signpost use of the internet facilities at our local Glen Hills library or other libraries within the locality.

THE ROLE OF THE PARENT OR CARER

- We respectfully ask that parents provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework without distraction.
- Parents need to make it clear that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning.
- Both parents or carers should encourage their children to do their homework, inspect their work when appropriate, sign it if ever required to do so, and praise their children when they have completed it.
- It is important that children complete their homework task within the allocated time.
- Any parent who requires any further help is warmly encouraged to contact their child's teacher.

PUPILS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- As they progress through the school we expect pupils to become increasingly aware of homework assignments and to remember when things are needed i.e. a certain day is spelling test day.
- It is expected that daily home reading will become automatic.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND MORE AND VERY ABLE PUPILS

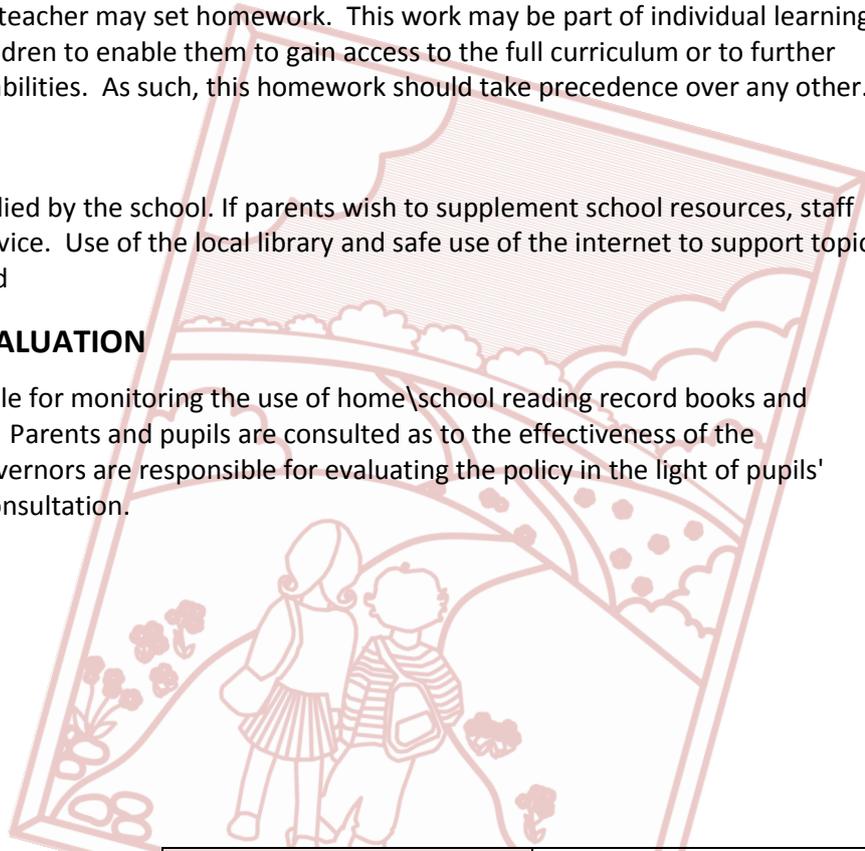
It may be necessary to set more sharply focussed activities for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and /or More and Very Able pupils. This may be instead of the work set for the rest of the year group or, if the child is older, in addition to that work. A member of the SEN team working in collaboration with the class teacher may set homework. This work may be part of individual learning targets set for particular children to enable them to gain access to the full curriculum or to further extend and challenge their abilities. As such, this homework should take precedence over any other.

RESOURCES

Most resources will be supplied by the school. If parents wish to supplement school resources, staff are always willing to give advice. Use of the local library and safe use of the internet to support topic work is highly recommended

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Class teachers are responsible for monitoring the use of home\school reading record books and parents' written comments. Parents and pupils are consulted as to the effectiveness of the homework programme. Governors are responsible for evaluating the policy in the light of pupils' achievements and parent consultation.



Policy	<i>Homework Policy</i>
Reviewing Committee	<i>Curriculum Committee</i>
Last Reviewed	<i>2015</i>