



**Newhampton Church of England
Schools Federation**

Homework Policy

Newtown Church of England Primary School

&

Welshampton Church of England Primary School

Agreed by the FGB Autumn 2022

Review by Autumn 2024



Values and Vision

Growing together in strength, love and wisdom, we shine.

“Let your light shine” Matthew 5:16

‘Let your light shine’ encapsulates the school’s commitment to provide an enriching education which is deep and broad. Pupils will be equipped for life in all its fullness through our Christian values of strength, love and wisdom.

Learning will be a journey of fun and adventure, broadening the horizons of our pupils and inspiring them to be the best they can be. Within a nurturing environment, we will support our pupils to give them the strength to flourish as confident, resilient and independent members of society.

Christian character illuminates all aspects of school life, where everyone is understood and valued. At the heart of our safe and inclusive schools, pupils will be kind, patient and respectful - developing a love of one another, a love of learning and a love of life itself.

The aspirational curriculum will foster curious and creative thinkers, who will be encouraged to maximise every opportunity and be proud of their achievements. Pupils will find joy in seeking knowledge and learning new skills, as they grow together on their journey through pupilhood.

Our schools are forward-thinking and outward-looking. We will continuously improve and evolve together, in order to inspire pupils who leave our schools feeling excited and ready for the future.

Homework Policy

Introduction and Philosophy

What do we mean by homework?

At Newhampton Church of England Schools Federation we define the term 'homework' widely, to mean any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Homework is done outside the classroom, without the guidance of teachers; it can be done at school but more usually it is done at home. Pupils perform at their best when home and school work together. Homework is an opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting learning. Homework should also be enjoyable for the pupil involved and should stimulate imagination and creativity as well as reinforcing what is taught in the classroom. Pupils generally enjoy continuing their activities and sharing their experiences and ideas and bringing work started at home back into school.

Homework can cover a very wide range of activities, depending on the age of the pupil, but throughout the primary years a consistent emphasis will be put on reading for pleasure and purpose as part of homework.

Why is Homework Important?

There is no legal requirement for schools to provide a set amount of homework or for primary pupils to undertake formal homework. However the government do have non statutory guidance the schools are recommended to follow. At Newhampton Church of England Schools Federation, however, it is a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement and of enabling the school to offer some pastoral support beyond the school day. As such, at Newhampton Church of England Schools Federation we believe homework requires a vital commitment by teachers, pupils and parents.

Teachers at this school are required to set homework under this policy.

Homework is important for the primary pupil because it provides a means for pupils:

- to consolidate and reinforce what is learnt in the classroom
- to build up basic skills (particularly reading, writing and numeracy) and to maintain the emphasis on raising levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy
- to become curious and independent learners
- to develop good study habits
- to prepare for the next stage of education.

Homework set at Newhampton Church of England Schools Federation is meant to fulfill these objectives. It is important that every pupil sees that home and school are working together in partnership to provide help, support and encouragement. Homework can help to promote a positive attitude to learning at home and provides a vital link between home and school.

Why Do We Need a Written Homework Policy?

At Newhampton Church of England Schools Federation homework is set by class teachers who decide how it can best support teaching and learning in their own classroom. A written policy makes the purposes of homework, and the basic principles we follow in setting and marking homework, clear to everyone involved.

Staff, Governors, parents, carers, and pupils know that the purpose of homework is to:

- support learning in the classroom and to raise standards of achievement
- enhance the learning experience for each pupil
- identify and highlight pupil development and pupil needs
- ensure that parents and carers have clear expectations about their role and that of the pupil
- to prepare pupils for the next stage of education
- to support our whole school development plan.

In particular our homework policy will achieve:

- a consistent approach to setting, monitoring and marking homework throughout the federation
- progression as pupils mature and become independent learners
- opportunities for extended reading at all ages
- reinforcement and consolidation of learning at all stages of development
- partnership for parents, carers and pupils in the learning process
- extra support for pupils with particular needs.

Our homework policy is not:

- a means of finishing work not completed in the classroom
- designed to create anxiety, undue pressure or conflict between parents and pupils
- an afterthought at the end of a lesson

Homework set at Newhampton Church of England Schools Federation is monitored to determine:

- that these aims are being met
- that the full range of types of homework are being set consistently
- that teachers in the same year group set equivalent amounts of homework.

Supporting Teaching and Learning through Homework

The people with the major responsibility for seeing that homework is completed are the parents.

There is a designated senior member of staff responsible:

- for managing the policy
- for responding to concerns of parents.

At the moment the designated member of staff is the headteacher.

Our planning identifies that all staff share an understanding that homework needs to be:

- manageable for pupils at different ages and can be appropriately supported by parents and carers
- regularly monitored to ensure that the demands of homework are as evenly balanced as possible
- clearly linked to daily progress in the classroom

In addition, the school recognises that staff need:

- to be supported by CPD on good practice in methods of setting, assessment and feedback on homework
- to ensure that homework policy and practice forms are part of the induction process of NQTs and other staff who join the school.

How Parents and Carers Can Support Pupils' Learning Through Homework

Parents and carers play a vital role in their pupils's lasting success. Parents are informed about homework in the class newsletter.

We recommend that parents give a little time every day for homework rather than an intensive period once or twice a week though appreciate that other commitments sometimes make this difficult. Parents and carers can help with homework in different ways at different stages.

Most important, parents and carers are asked to:

- make it clear to pupils how much they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- praise and encourage pupils when they take pride in their homework
- provide a peaceful and comfortable place, free from distractions such as television, where pupils can concentrate on their homework.
- encourage pupils of all ages to read as much and as widely as possible.
- ensure that Reading Records at FS and KS1 are filled in as appropriate.

What homework will be set?

Year 1 to Year 6

Maths

Each pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 will receive a CPG Maths workbook appropriate to their year group at the start of the year. A task will be set from this book usually every week. In addition, the teacher will encourage more regular practice of number bonds and times tables as appropriate.

All pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 will complete a short arithmetic test usually every week which will be stuck in their Home School Journal for parents / carers to review alongside their pupil.

All pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 will have a Times Table Rockstars digital account allocated to them and will usually be asked to spend at least 5 minutes accessing the platform per week.

Writing

Each pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 will receive a CPG Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar workbook appropriate to their year group at the start of the year. A task will be set from this book usually every week.

In addition, the teacher will set between 5 and 10 spellings for Year 1 to Year 6 pupils to learn each week. Three of these set words will be tested every week when pupils are asked to copy out a dictated sentence. These sentences will be written into Home School Journals for parents / carers to review at home. In addition to the spelling, punctuation and handwriting will also be marked.

Reading

Reading underpins all education and as such pupils will be encouraged to read at home for at least five minutes every day. A record of this reading should then be made by a parent / carer in the Home School Journal. Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 may record their reading in the Home School Journal themselves.

Additional phonics homework may also be set when appropriate.

EYFS

Early reading and phonics is vitally important and as such homework set in EYFS will focus predominantly on this element of early education. Homework will be set weekly but activities will be set at the EYFS class teacher's discretion.

When will homework be set?

In setting homework we will plan to:

- Establish a familiar routine for pupils and parents
- Reflect the age and capacity of the pupils involved.

For pupils of all ages, homework will be set systematically by class teachers but will follow – where possible - these procedures

1. Homework will always be set on a Monday.
2. Where the school week starts on a day other than a Monday, homework will be set the following week.
3. Pupils will be given the week to complete tasks. Homework will therefore be collected on a Friday.
4. No homework will be set during holidays except for year sixes in the SATs year and for any pupils/parents who request it.

Where will homework be set?

Each pupil in KS1 and KS2 will have a homework book or a folder which will contain appropriate homework required homework resources. For example, an exercise book, CPG books, phonics resources. Homework tasks will be stuck into the exercise book on a Monday. Homework books are to be submitted on a Friday.

Marking

How will pupils and parents know what has been achieved?

At Newhampton Church of England Schools Federation our pupils and parents expect and receive appropriate feedback on homework. Ways of providing these include:

- monitoring the Reading Record
- marking – either by school staff or by pupils within school
- verbal feedback from classroom teachers

Monitoring

From time to time homework books will be checked by the SMT to ensure that this policy is being implemented.

Home School Journals must be brought to school daily