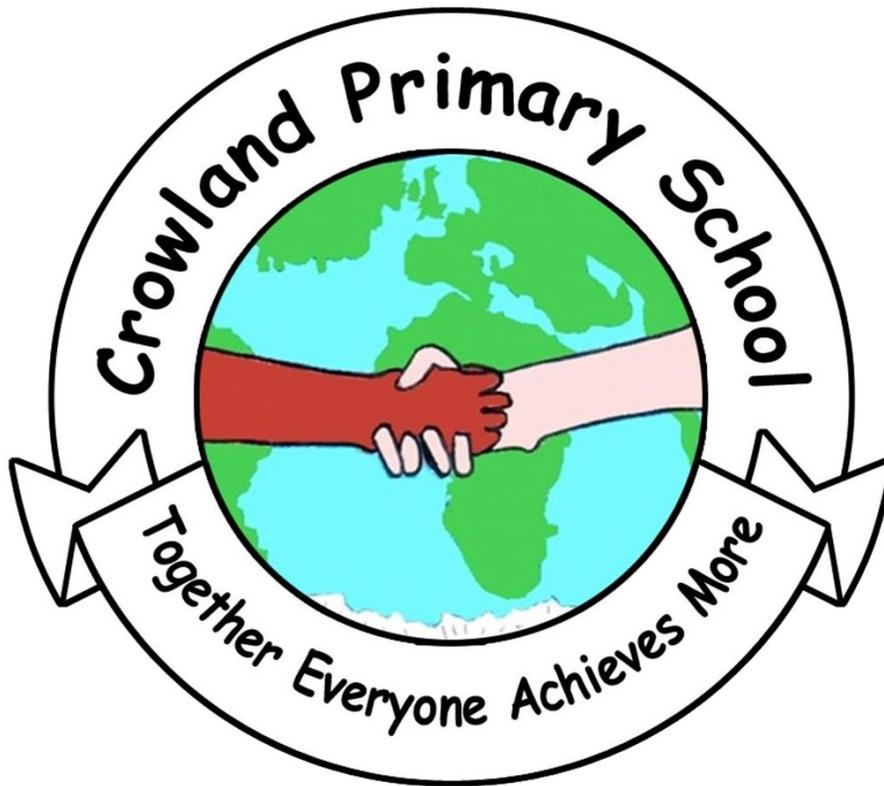


# CROWLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Homework Policy 2014

## **Homework Policy**

### **Policy statement**

A good, well-managed homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need, for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills, and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education. (DCFS 2007)

The DCFS guidelines on Homework recommends that schools present their view on the purpose, amount and type of homework which should be set for pupils of different ages and the expectations of parents and carers and schools. This policy has been written with these guidelines taken into consideration.

### **Aims**

- To develop a dialogue between home and school by actively involving parents and carers and enabling them to support their child's learning
- To reinforce and consolidate skills learnt in class
- To extend school learning by providing the opportunities for children to explore aspects of their learning in detail
- To encourage the development of independent learning, confidence, motivation and good study skills
- To help prepare children and develop their organisational skills for the next stage in their education

### **Objectives**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure that parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves and their children
- Provide opportunities for parents and carers, children and the school to work in partnership
- Provide opportunities for parents and carers and children to enjoy learning together
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- Ensure the needs of individual children are taken into account

- **Equal Opportunities**

We recognise that all parents and carers do not have equal access to materials and resources to support their child's learning at home. We will ensure that any activities sent home are fully supported by the necessary resources. Additional activities may be provided to support children with Special Educational Needs. The class teacher/Teaching Assistant/Inclusion Manager will meet with parents and carers to agree appropriate support activities and to ensure that parents and carers are confident as to the manner in which they can support their child effectively.

We will endeavour to ensure that families who speak English as an additional language are able to effectively support their child at home. Where possible, we will ensure a translator is available when the child is admitted to school, to explain our homework policy. Homework set is differentiated and expectations of children are based on teachers' knowledge of children's abilities.

## **Implementation**

### **How Homework is Set**

Homework is set by teachers and all children are expected to complete the work which has been given. Weekly homework is given in Literacy and Maths and other topic related work is given at different points in the half term. All the homework given relates to work which is being undertaken in class.

Children have a homework book, provided by the school. Book bags can also be purchased from the school office. Any lost books must be paid for.

### **How Homework is Used**

When work is returned to school it is used to support children's class work in different ways ie spellings for a test, number facts, research and projects linked to learning in school. Teachers check and respond to homework each week. Children will be praised and rewarded for returning homework regularly and for a high standard of work.

### **How Parents and Carers can help**

Parents and carers play a vital role in the homework process. Some of the ways they can help are:

- Provide a suitable and quiet place where children can complete their homework
- Reminding, supporting and supervising children as they complete their homework

- Encourage and support their children and praising them when they have completed their homework
- Listening to the child and discussing the task together
- Extending activities where appropriate
- Reading to their child and hearing them read
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It is involvement in joint activities which is so valuable in encouraging and promoting learning for every child.

### **Failure to return Homework**

We expect that homework tasks are completed and returned to school at the time expected. We do recognise that circumstances occasionally make this difficult and parents or carers should always communicate with the school in such circumstances to make the teacher aware of the situation.

If a child regularly fails to return their homework, we will discuss this with families. Older children may be asked to complete homework which has not been returned after a reasonable time and without an acceptable reason, during school break times.

### **Expectations of Homework at Crowland Primary School**

It is very important that children develop good habits for home school learning from the beginning of their school life. A homework club will also be available each week and class teachers will monitor homework returned.

### **Home School Reading**

Children are expected to take part in daily reading at home, ideally with an adult. A record of the child's reading is kept using a home school diary. This is a means of communication between home and school about reading. Each child will bring home a reading book (R to Y6) and may bring library books of their own choice. Books must be returned to school, and in school each day. Any other books read with support staff as part of intervention may be taken as additional reading homework.

Teachers will initial and date the home school diary each week. Comments by parents or carers will be responded to as appropriate.

## **Nursery**

Children should share a book, ideally every day. Talking about pictures and about stories and learning how books work are an essential part of learning to read. Children in the Nursery bring home a book each day with a home school reading diary.

## **Reception**

**Reading:** Reception children read at least twice a week in school. Book bags are sent home daily. A guided reading book, selected by the teacher, and an own choice book are sent home once a week. Children may be given additional home learning as appropriate, ie to find out about their topic.

## **Years 1 and 2**

It is recommended that children spend no more than 1 hour per week on homework activities. This should be spread over the week and reading should take place for 10-15 minutes per day.

**Reading:** Reading books are sent home each day and are selected by the teacher as appropriate to the child's reading ability. In addition each child may bring home their own choice of book each week (library or book box).

**Spelling:** Spellings are introduced as homework during the first term in Year 1. Spellings are selected from high frequency words and from spelling patterns taught. By the end of Year 1 and in Year 2, 6-10 words will be sent home each week, which will be differentiated for groups of children. A weekly activity or test will be carried out with the children once each week to check their spellings.

**Maths:** Children in KS1 bring home a maths activity. This may be in the form of a game or worksheet. The task will be clearly explained on the sheet. Work returned will be ticked and dated by the teacher.

## **Years 3 and 4**

It is recommended that children spend 1½ hours per week on homework activities. This should be spread over the week and reading should take place for 10-15 minutes per day.

**Reading:** Reading books are sent home each day and are selected by the teacher as appropriate to the child's reading ability. In addition each child may bring a library book. **Spellings:** 6-10 words will be sent home each week, differentiated according to the children's ability. A weekly test will be carried out with the children once each week to check their spellings.

**Maths:** Children will bring home a weekly maths activity. This is a maths investigation or practice and consolidation of basic number skills. Homework sheets are devised by teachers to support and extend children's class work.

**Research:** In Year 4 children are asked to complete a piece of topic or research work over the half term. This will be set by the class teacher and will be sent home with a clear explanation of the expectations, how the homework should be presented and when the work is to be completed by.

## **Years 5 and 6**

It is recommended that children spend 30 mins per day on homework activities. This should include 15-20 mins reading each day.

**Reading:** Reading books are sent home once a week and are selected by the teacher as appropriate to the child's reading ability. In addition each child may bring library books each week.

**Spellings:** Spelling homework sheets will be sent home each week, differentiated according to the children's ability. These will include spellings to learn and activities to practice spellings. A weekly test will be carried out with the children once each week to check their spellings.

**Maths:** Children will bring home a weekly maths activity. This is a maths investigation or practice and consolidation of basic number skills. Homework sheets will be devised by teachers to support and extend children's class work and will have a clear explanation and opportunities for extension.

**Topic:** Children are asked to complete a piece of topic or research work. This will be set by the class teacher and may be recorded in homework books.

## **Half Term and Holiday Projects**

In all year groups children may be asked to complete a 'holiday project'. This will be work linked to the classroom learning or to develop children's individual interests.

### **Extension Work**

Teachers will sometimes suggest optional homework such as language games or problems to solve.

## **Completing Class Work**

In Years 4-6, if a teacher judges that a child has not completed work of a sufficient standard in lesson time, they may require the work to be done properly as homework.

## **Management arrangements**

The class teacher is responsible for the management of homework and for providing written comments in the homework books as appropriate.

A sample of reading diaries and homework books will be monitored by the Headteacher during each term to measure how successfully the school policy is being implemented.

Date: May 2014

Review Date May 2016