

## Gillamoor Church of England (VC) Primary School

Where God's love is sown, grown and taken home.

### Our Mission Statement

Our School community aims to inspire and nurture the love of learning and to develop the full potential of all, within a distinctly Christian environment.

The core Christian values we embrace and foster are: Loving and Caring, Courage, Compassion, Honesty, Thankfulness, Generosity, Respect and Forgiveness.

### Homework Policy

The school is of the opinion that homework is important since it reinforces and extends the teaching and learning that occurs during the day. Homework encourages parental involvement in children's learning and helps to develop independence. It is important however to remember, that when a child has worked for a full day in school he/she may not respond positively to having large amounts of homework. At Gillamoor CE Primary we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

#### Aims

To provide an important and effective link between home and school.

To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership.

To extend and support school learning beyond the classroom.

To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

To encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs.

To help foster habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary phase of education.

Whilst we support these aims Gillamoor is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that evenings and weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We recognise that this is an area that will always invoke differing opinions and responses. However in our Parental survey Summer 2017 the following opinions were in the majority:

- happy with the amount of homework
- think there should be a mixture of both formal and creative homework
- many demands on children and parents time
- preferred spelling, reading and maths as not always enough time for everything else
- wanted to see feedback to homework completed

We received valuable feedback with a wide range of views which we have taken into consideration when writing this policy. Thank you.

#### Homework plan for infants

Reading and word work/phonics	Ideally 10 minutes daily, minimum of 4 x 10 minutes with parent/carer recorded in red reading record book.
Spelling Starts in summer term for EYFS	15 minutes a week 3 x 5 minutes
Number bonds and times tables	Ideally 5 minutes daily National curriculum requirements are that all children should know their times tables and corresponding division statements for 2x, 5x and 10x by the end of Year 2.
Additional homework, literacy and maths based	Up to 30 minutes a week.

## Homework plan for juniors Year 3 and 4

Reading	Ideally 10 minutes daily, minimum of 4 x 10 minutes. Can be independent reading but parent/carer should sign recorded pages in red reading record book.
Grammar	20 minutes a week
Spelling	30 minutes a week 3 x 10 minutes or 6 x 5 minutes This is specific follow up work to work completed in the lesson and supports learning the words for that particular week.
Times tables and number bonds	Ideally 5 minutes daily, minimum 4 x 5 minutes each week. National curriculum requirements are that all children should know their times tables and corresponding division fact up to 12 x 12 very quickly, by the end of year 4.
Maths homework	10 – 20 minutes a week

## Homework plan for juniors Year 5 and 6

Reading	Ideally 10 minutes daily, minimum of 4 x 10 minutes. Can be independent reading but parent/carer should sign recorded pages in red reading record book.
Grammar	30 minutes a week This is usually started in the lesson.
Spelling	30 minutes a week 3 x 10 minutes or 6 x 5 minutes This is specific follow up work to work completed in the lesson and supports learning the words for that particular week.
Times tables and number bonds	Ideally 5 minutes daily, minimum 4 x 5 minutes each week. Pupils should know all their times tables and corresponding division fact up to 12 x 12 by now but should be using these to multiply and divide decimals and larger numbers. For example use knowledge of 4 x 12 to calculate 4 x 1.2 or 40x 120 etc.
Maths homework	30 minutes a week
Parents should sign green homework diary at the end of each week and write in any comments if they wish.	

For children to make the most progress reading, spelling and multiplication/division facts need to be practised nightly.

The times are a guide and an indication of how long a child should spend intensively working on their homework. Children should be encouraged to discuss any problems they are having with their teacher. It is not acceptable for children to struggle excessively, causing upset at home. Obtaining parental support is of paramount importance.

For all year groups parents should let the teacher know if homework is taking longer than the specified time, especially if this is on a regular basis.

It is helpful, where substantial parental support is required, or if a specific explanation has been required, if parents could note this on the sheet or in the homework diary in the case of Year 5 or 6. Homework, especially in the younger years, is a shared activity with adults. However, if the parent is needing to do a lot of explaining to the child then the teacher setting the homework needs to know.

A lunchtime Homework Club is provided for children who wish to do some of their homework at school and support is provided.

Juniors have 3 different folders for homework. Spelling is yellow, maths is blue and grammar is black. All work should be kept in the folder and handed in by the given day. It can then be marked and returned ready for the next piece to allow parents to see comments and feedback. It is not always possible to mark work that is handed in late. In such case it will be marked the following week, provided the folder is handed in on time.

#### Homework will

- Increase as children get older
- Be interesting and relevant to the class work
- Be encouraged by a positive approach
- Encourage parents to support their children's work by providing where possible a quiet undisturbed environment
- Be marked by the class teacher if handed in on time

Following these guidelines will help children to develop independence, realise their full potential and prepare them for the next stage in their education.

Although there is no legal requirement to have a Homework Policy, the guidelines have been drawn up in line with recommendations.

Half termly certificates will be given to those who complete all homework set for that half term.

#### School staff will:

- set high expectations for the standard and presentation of homework and monitor progress
- ensure homework is relevant and an integral part of the curriculum
- ensure adequate time is given for homework to be completed
- ensure work completed and given in on time is marked before the next piece is set
- keep parents, governors and children well informed
- show enthusiasm and make homework relevant
- be aware of the time pressures on pupils and parents that homework may cause

#### Children will be encouraged to:

- be able to see how their work at home supports and enriches their work in school
- develop enthusiasm for homework, see its relevance and use it as a preparation for the future demands of secondary school
- feel they are sharing their learning with other members of their family
- show commitment to their work by completing it to the best of their ability and handing it in on time
- complete homework to a high standard and present it neatly
- complete their homework at lunchtime if they have not completed it at home

#### Parents will:

- be encouraged to support their children to develop enthusiasm for homework
- be informed about their child's progress at parent teacher consultations and annual reports
- feel they can consult the teacher over any problems related to homework
- encouraged to share in their child's learning, helping with the completion of tasks where necessary
- encourage high expectations in the standard and presentation of homework

Homework will not be used for assessment purposes.

A Tweddle and staff

Date January 2018

Review date July 2022