

# Bowling Green Primary School

Home Learning Policy 2018/19



**Growing Hearts  
and Minds**

## Document summary table

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<b>Author(s):</b>	Headteacher
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<b>Committee name:</b>	Standards and Effectiveness
<b>Next review date:</b>	November 2019
<b>Supersedes:</b>	Home Learning policy (2018 V1.0)
<b>Document control:</b>	<p>Minor changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Updated to include list of agreed homework strategies for each year group.</li><li>- Added the phrase 'whilst providing an age-appropriate level of challenge' to bullet point 1 in Aims.</li><li>- Deleted section on homework expectations, relating to parents reporting back in journals on weekly topics – no longer the case.</li><li>- Removed reference to 'homework grids' which have been dropped in favour of maths and English homework.</li><li>- Amended section on marking – to include reference to light touch marking, through use of house points or stamp.</li><li>- Some grammatical issues rectified.</li></ul>

## **Introduction**

This policy has been developed through consultation with staff, pupils, parents and governors. It takes into account guidance given by the government on the amount and nature of homework for young children.

Whilst it is recognised that homework, if properly designed and supported can have considerable benefit to children, it is not compulsory, will not be set as a punishment and will not be an essential part of the coverage of normal school work.

## **What is Homework?**

Homework is defined as any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside of lesson time.

## **Aims**

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school, whilst ensuring an age-appropriate level of challenge;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- ensure parents, carers, teachers and pupils have a clear understanding about expectations;
- improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils;
- extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision;
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- support the development of attitudes towards lifelong learning.

## **What is the purpose of homework?**

The purpose of homework is to:

- develop an effective partnership between the school, parents and other carers (which is also the purpose of our home school agreement);
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in maths and English;
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading or research
- encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

At Bowling Green Primary School, teaching staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy, structured day at school need time to relax and unwind. We are also mindful of the importance of pursuing external activities such as sports, music lessons etc.

Homework must also be manageable for teaching staff. Homework should not therefore become an onerous task but an enjoyable experience where children are sharing their learning with their parents.

### **Homework expectations**

- The focus of home learning changes as children get older but throughout school regular reading is vital. Regular reading at home, especially reading and sharing books with parents, is essential. A regular reading record will be set up between home and school.
- In Reception, the main focus is phonics – through use of soundbooks and ‘red and green’ words. Year 1 maintains the focus on phonics and also adds maths in the form of weekly work.
- From Year 2 upwards, a list of spelling strategies/rules which will be covered throughout the half-term will be sent home for children to work on. Weekly spelling tests will be used to assess the children’s learning at home. Children will be sent possible strategies to be used when reading.
- In addition, suggested maths and English activities/targets to work on will be sent home in paper form each week. These may be times tables, calculations, money activities for maths and grammar or writing practise for English.
- A homework book or folder will be provided for children to record any written work undertaken. A real emphasis on practical homework, especially for our younger children will be encouraged.
- Teachers will adopt a ‘light touch’ approach to marking, through use of earning house points for their completed activities and/or praise stamps and stickers.

### **How can parents and carers support pupils?**

Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupil can do their homework;
- make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework;
- become actively involved in joint homework activities with children.

**This policy will be reviewed in November 2019: Approved by the Governing Body**

<b>Signature of committee chair:</b>
<b>Date:</b>