

# Navigation Primary School

## Homework Policy

### Navigation Primary



**Working together, learning together**

**Approved by:** CURRICULUM COMMITTEE **Date:** 18/12/19

**Next review due by:** AUTUMN 2022

## **1. Introduction**

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standards (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

## **2. Philosophy**

Homework is seen as an essential part of good education that supports children's development as an independent learner. At NPS, we believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning and provides the opportunity to reinforce the curriculum taught in school. It is recognised that while homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of NPS's pupils. NPS is well aware that children spend more time at home than at school and believes that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school. Homework should not be a chore, but children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual as homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment but usually homework will be revision or consolidation of work studied in school. NPS also acknowledges the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development and welcomes reports on those so that NPS can celebrate children's achievements outside of school.

## **3. Aims and Objectives**

Regular, well planned homework can:

- support pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future;
- encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance;
- help parents gain insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school;
- provide opportunities for personalised work and develop skills of independent learning;
- offer access to resources not found in school (public libraries, local museums etc.);
- consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work;
- provide a context for pupil/parent interaction;
- to prepare children for the next stage of their education;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

## **4. What the school will offer:**

At the start of each school year every parent receives a parent information booklet outlining the organisation and areas of study to be undertaken in relation to the National Curriculum. Information about NPS's curriculum is also available from the school website.

When teachers set homework they will ensure that:-

- it is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom;
- the task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities, especially for those pupils with special educational needs;
- work is marked as promptly as possible;
- problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly;
- regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated through our reward system;
- the impact of homework upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored.

## **5. Types and amount of homework**

5.1 The amount of homework increases as children move through the school. As a guideline it is anticipated that children would spend:

- in Early Years Foundation Stage 20/30 minutes of sustained effort per week;
- in Key Stage One: 40- 60 minutes per week of sustained effort (reading, spellings, English or maths work)
- in Key Stage Two: 40- 60 minutes per week of sustained effort (alternate weeks of, English or maths work alongside reading, spellings and mental maths) with occasional research tasks in other subjects

5.2 On occasions children will be set project based or creative homework over a series of weeks or a term, it is expected that the same amount of time and effort is put into this homework as that set on a weekly basis.

5.3 In addition those children in Year 5 who opt in to the exam class also receive weekly homework and as end of Key Stage 2 SATs approach additional revision homework may be given.

5.4 All children will be expected to complete tasks and return them at the requested time. If a child fails to complete homework the class teacher will explore the reasons for doing so and the child may be given extra time to complete or required to complete it within school at, for example, lunchtime ; regular failure to complete homework may lead to a meeting between class teachers and/or senior leaders and parents to discuss the reasons why.

## 6. Use of ICT in homework

On occasions homework set may require access to the internet or use of a computer. There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning e.g. TT Rock Stars. The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home which help children with research tasks, however, NPS does expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else. NPS does not permit children to bring in memory sticks into school because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher will suggest an alternative means of electronically submitting the work. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents/carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet. If a pupil does not have access to a computer or internet at home parents should inform the class teacher and alternative arrangements will be made to allow that child to complete his/her homework.

## 7. The Role of Parents

7.1 It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work. NPS asks that parents provide a suitable quiet environment and that they take an active interest in their child's homework and support them if they need help, without doing it for them. It is acceptable where a child has tried hard, and for the recommended time allocation, for parents to sign their child's book to say that they have not finished the work and provide further details as appropriate. Likewise, where a parent has had to give significant input to assist the child it is helpful for the teacher to know that via a brief note.

7.2 NPS asks that parents ensure that their child has the basic materials to complete the homework i.e. pen or pencil, depending upon age for written pieces and pencil for maths or sketching.

7.3 If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should contact the child's class teacher face to face or via the child's homework book. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented; parents should contact the complaints coordinator first and if then not satisfied, the governing body; the school's complaints policy and procedure is available on the school website [www.navigationprimary.com](http://www.navigationprimary.com) .

## 8. Inclusion

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. Likewise where a child is particularly gifted or talented the task set will be one which provides a challenge.

### **9. Equalities**

School will ensure that its homework reflects the society we live in and that the work set is without prejudice to any individual.

### **9. Monitoring and Review**

It is the responsibility of the governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is delegated to the curriculum committee who will review the policy every three years.