

Claregate Primary School Homework Policy

Aims

- To Inspire tomorrow today by fostering a love of learning through success and encouragement.
- To improve children's standards of achievement throughout the school and narrow gaps where identified.
- To allow parents / carers an opportunity to see and develop their children's own ability, building a partnership through school.
- To give the children good attitudes towards working at home thus enhancing their life chances.
- To provide good transition into the next stage of their education.
- To develop good working habits and routines such as commitment and independence.
- To reinforce our 'Habit of Mind' in encouraging perseverance, creative thinking, application, managing impulsivity, imagination, accuracy, creativity, predicting, empathy, innovation, risk taking and humour.
- To build learning links between home and school.
- To encourage children to see their own parents as learners and key to learning.

The purpose of homework is to :-

- Revise, consolidate and reinforce previous learning.
- Learn key core skills by rote e.g. spellings or multiplication tables.
- Make children think more deeply and with sustained concentration.
- Encourage commitment and stamina.
- Develop independent learning skills such as research or compilation of information.
- Prepare them for their next stage of education in that good work habits are established.
- Pre-learn in preparation for a lesson.

In this policy we will :-

- Provide a framework for the type and frequency of homework set.
- The standards of homework that we expect.
- Rewards and sanctions for not completing homework.
- What to expect as a child travels through the school.

Roles in School

Governing Board

Set strategic policy and direction.

Oversee and monitor standards.

Hold leaders to account for the success of learning standards including homework.

To give a parent Governor view so leaders know how it works in practice.

Headteacher

To implement the policies of the Governing board.

To advise Governors.

To promote lifelong learning.

To provide guidance for parent / carers.

Keep up to date with good practice.

Evaluate the effectiveness of homework.

Middle Leaders / Deputy Headteacher

To monitor the application of policy.

To be role models in setting good homework tasks.

To provide guidance for parent / carers.

Teachers

Set challenging and well-pitched homework tasks.

Keep lists of tasks completed or scores achieved.

Encourage and motivate pupils.

Provide assistance to parents / carers.

Monitor and acknowledge homework completion.

Support Staff

Assistance with any of the teacher's roles as agreed.

Parents / Carers

Do

Check book bags and messages sent via SIMS Parent.

Provide a warm, quiet working environment. Make homework enjoyable and really value their work.

Take an interest and monitor your child(ren) working. PPP – Pause, praise prompt – see below.

Be informed - use the website to look at key documents e.g. Visual Calculation Policy (under Curriculum – Maths), Handwriting Policy, link to the National Curriculum which has key spelling lists, year group curricular coverage.

Encourage persistence and independence.

Don't

Get cross if they don't understand.

Struggle on if you don't understand (please ask us).

Teach them to write in capital letters (see our Handwriting Guidelines on the website).

Mispronounce letter sounds. A useful guide for this is <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/phonics-made-easy>.

Add other methods (which you were taught) in Maths – it doesn't help.

Pupils

Do

Complete your homework as well as you can.

Remember not to leave homework to the last minute – be prepared.

Persist, be independent. Please ask for help when you require it.

Remember to complete homework on time.

If you are writing, sit at a desk, write carefully and make it as good as when you do work in school.

Don't

Say "in a minute", sigh or give your parents a hard time. Do your best – as well as you do in school!
Let your dog eat it!

GUIDANCE FOR PARENT / CARERS

Always ask and take an interest in homework and discuss the work that has been set.

Always log their reading using GoRead the online reading record.

Encourage **reading for meaning** not just accurate reading out loud. See the website under the "Curriculum" tab for questions that you can ask.

Have a **set time and a routine** for homework so your child knows what to expect and when. Make this non-negotiable and fit it in with your daily routine. We advise giving a break after school and allow some relaxation.

Organise homework tasks **little and often** increasing this as they get older e.g. Reception 5 minute bursts but Year 6 should be capable of doing 45 minutes without interruption.

If you can, have a **desk or table** with a seat and don't allow them to write with books on their lap – this ruins their handwriting and presentation.

As far as possible have a **quiet environment** away from TV, radio or computer games. The calmer the environment the more they will concentrate. Calm music may actually help.

Whatever you do, **don't get anxious or cross** if they do not understand. This causes anxiety and negative attitudes and lowers standards.

If you don't understand **ask your child's class teacher** who will be happy to explain – particularly in Maths which may have changed from how you were taught and phonics which is very technical. Please refer to the **Calculation Policy** on the website which will show you the correct method to use.

Use the 3 P's as above "**Pause, Prompt and Praise**". Do not give them the answer straight away – pause encouraging thinking time. Then prompt giving encouragement or a clue and praise the learning behaviour e.g. "I like the way that you are figuring it out by yourself".

Ask children to write in what they use in school – **pen or pencil**. No felt tips or fibre tipped pens please! Ink should be blue or black. At Key Stage 1 pencil and at Key Stage 2 pen (when they have got their pen license) in English and always pencil in Maths. Homework will be acknowledged e.g. with a tick and a record made as to whether it has been completed, but we do not mark homework in the same depth as work done in school. Parents can give children an indication of success.

Homework

Year	Homework	GoRead – online reading record	Spelling shed (weekly spelling tests)	TimesTable Rockstars
R		Read for enjoyment every day for 5 minutes.		
1		Minimum - read for enjoyment every day for 10 minutes.		<p>Little and often approach 3 minutes practice a day, 5 times a week.</p>
2		Minimum - read for enjoyment every day for 15 minutes.		
3	Weekly Maths and Grammar or English task using 'Deepening Understanding'	Minimum - read for enjoyment every day for 15 minutes.	<p>Lists of 10 weekly words with Spelling Shed access.</p>	
4		Minimum - read for enjoyment every day for 15 minutes.		
5		Minimum - read for enjoyment every day for 20 minutes.		
6		Revision Guides		

At Claregate we aim to support pupils with their homework to become:

- Organised
- Independent
- Confident
- Self-motivated
- Responsible for their own learning, actions and belongings

At their discretion, teachers may set **optional** topic research or a fun diary activity and this may be done over a holiday. This is to keep the children's skills sharp. Now that we can more accurately measure progress it has been noticeable that if children do not engage in learning over a period of time, their progress slows.

Other Ideas

The above is a minimum. As a family you may also wish to do things together. Sometimes children do their own holiday scrap book or a mini topic. We will always take an interest in this and encourage these independent work skills.

Family projects such as playing board games really help with counting, listening and turn taking.

Practical Maths Activities often help. When shopping, talk to them about money - counting, calculating the change. When on holiday encourage currency conversion etc.

Cooking- measuring and weighing, calculating cooking times, calculating total weight, using scales accurately.

Telling the time- KS1 - O'clock, half past, quarter to and past minute and 1 minute accuracy KS2 5.

Using timetables for travel. Calculating time intervals between TV programmes, bus and car journeys.