



Homework Policy

Background:

This policy has been developed in collaboration with the Parent Council. The approach takes into account the findings of the Sutton Trust research (2013) which indicates the effectiveness of teaching and learning strategies in terms of added months progress. This showed that homework adds only one months progress, whereas parental involvement with learning adds 3 months.

Our approach to homework emphasises the need to learn and practise the basic skills whilst providing opportunities to develop creative and writing skills in collaboration with parents.

Aims of our homework provision and policy:

- ☑ Practise and consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in English and Maths
- ☑ Extend and support learning
- ☑ Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning
- ☑ Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences
- ☑ Prepare Year six pupils for the secondary phase of education
- ☑ Ensure there is a consistency of approach throughout school
- ☑ Ensure that parents/carers and pupils understand our expectations of them

How homework is set at Etchells:

- Homework is set on a half termly basis from Reception through to Year Five
- It is presented on a single piece of A4 and is themed around the current topic. Examples can be seen at the end of this policy
- Key learning tasks for English and Maths can be found in the top half. For example, spellings, tables, maths facts
- In the bottom half of the sheet there are 6 boxes; 3 contain writing tasks and 3 contain creative tasks. In Key Stage 1 these tasks are optional. In Key Stage 2, one writing and one creative task should be completed as a minimum
- No additional rewards should be given for completing homework tasks; this has previously created unnecessary pressure at home for children to complete extra tasks
- Homework tasks can be brought in at any stage of the half term and dates will be given for when learning tasks will be tested
- Homework tasks will not be marked. This is part of our strategy to manage workload for teachers. Tasks will be shared with the class however and verbal feedback given. Homework may be put on display or kept in a class book. Children are given the opportunity to evaluate each others' work
- In Reception, homework is set in the termly newsletter and advice is given to parents informing them how they can best support their children with reading, phonics and maths facts
- In Year Six, homework is set on a weekly basis and underpins the English and Maths curriculum. Creative tasks may also be set. This is to promote a good habit regarding homework and prepares the oldest children for their transfer to secondary education
- For children to make the most progress, reading, spelling and multiplication/division facts needs to be practised nightly. Multiplication and division tests take place weekly as part of the 'x' factor initiative

The Parent Council have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding this policy and amendments have been made since its implementation in January 2015.

This policy is available to parents on the school website.

Reviewed by Governors 12.05.16