

Castleton C of E Primary School

Homework Policy

June 2026



Introduction

Homework is anything pupils do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the pupils' learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their pupils before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a pupil's education and can add much to a pupil's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; pupils can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of co-operation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for pupils to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one way in which pupils can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a pupil's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a pupil's growth and development. Whilst homework is important, it should not prevent pupils 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 our pupils. We are well aware that pupils spend more time at home than at school, and we believe 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.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote co-operation between home and school in supporting each pupil's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow pupils to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help pupils develop good work habits for the future.

Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

We set a variety of homework activities.

Reading. Pupils are given books to take home and read with their parents or other adults. We give guidance to parents/carers on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We encourage our pupils to take home library books for reading for pleasure.

Spellings. The pupils may be given spelling activities linked to phonics learning and our spelling programme as well as new topic vocabulary.

Multiplication tables. The pupils are encouraged to practise the multiplication tables each week and are set challenges via Times Tables Rock Stars.

Homework Tasks. We ask pupils to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school and, if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other pupils.

Homework Projects. This may be related to the topic and pupils can complete a variety of tasks. We encourage the pupils to work alongside parents, grandparents or other adults where possible and discuss their learning.

Use of computing for homework. We use Times Tables Rock Stars as optional maths homework challenge to support the classroom learning.

Inclusion and homework

We set homework tasks for all pupils as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the pupil, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all pupils can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

The role of parents and carers

Parents/carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents/carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their child as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows them to do their best. Parents/carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is learning at school.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every two years and will be used in conjunction with the school's curriculum policies.

