Henry Chichele Primary School

HOMEWORK POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out the expectations for homework in each year group in our school. The Education Secretary (October 2018) stated that primary schools are not obliged to set homework but if they do, pupils should do it. In addition, he stated that headteachers should decide upon their own policies for homework to allow autonomy for individual schools.

Quality homework should be an integral part of a pupil's education. It should be purposeful, proportionate and have a positive impact on learning. It is expected that homework is achievable with limited support. Nevertheless, parental involvement makes a big difference to a pupil's educational development, and it is therefore expected that families complete some of the tasks together.

At primary school level, homework should help pupil to:

- Develop their knowledge.
- Encourage motivation and self-discipline of independent learning.
- Consolidate learning and practise basic skill, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

We consider frequent reading at home to be essential and believe it should form the basis of homework for primary school pupils. Parental involvement is essential. Ten minutes sharing a short book every day is of far greater benefit than one longer session at the weekend.

Pupils will be expected to increase the amount of time spent on school-related work at home as they progress through the school. Homework activities are designed to be short, frequent and age appropriate. We would expect the following homework to be undertaken by pupils and their parents/carers together.

We appreciate that many of our pupils attend clubs and other out of hours activities. It is essential that all of our pupils have sufficient time to develop holistically. All pupils need time to play, relax and rest. It is essential that they are in bed at a reasonable time if they are to remain alert and receptive to learning the following day. Homework will not be set across school holidays or for pupils who miss school during term time owing to unauthorised absence.

We recognise that for most pupils the school day is sufficiently challenging and that sometimes additional work may be counterproductive or cause friction between pupils and parents. Parents are encouraged to maintain dialogue with class teachers and discuss any concerns or problems at an early age. Class teachers will share any concerns at an early stage with parents.

Homework at Henry Chichele

From Reception to Year 6, homework will be handed out weekly on a Thursday. Homework will be due in by the following Wednesday. All pupils will be given a Homework Book in which to complete their homework. Pupils will be expected to complete their homework using a pencil (Reception and years 1, 2 and 3) or a blue pen (years 4, 5 and 6) and maintain high standards of presentation. Families should contact their pupil's class teacher if they require a pen or pencil.

Homework and reading records will be monitored by a member of a staff.

Homework will be gradually introduced in Reception starting with phonics links and developing weekly activities in a homework book.

Reviewed: September 2027

Next Review: September 2026

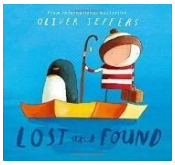
RECEPTION

Reading

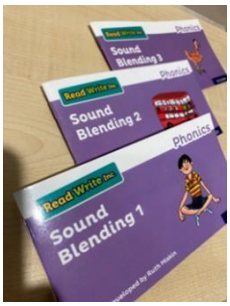
Pupils should share a book with an adult at home every day. Reading should be recorded in the pupil's reading record.

Before pupils are reading

At the beginning of the year, Reception pupils will be given a picture book to share with an adult to tell a story.



Pupils will also bring home a book from the library for adults at home to read and discuss with them.



When pupils are blending sounds into words

As pupils progress with their sound knowledge and begin to blend sounds into words, they will be given a blending book.

When pupils are reading sentences:

Pupils will be given a story book to read to an adult at home. They will have read this book with their phonics teacher that week so they will be familiar with the text. Pupils will also bring home a bookbag book which is at the same decoding level.

Homework

Every pupil will be given a homework pack with an exercise book, a pencil and any other relevant equipment to support the completion of set activities.

Homework activities will be sent home weekly, on a Thursday to be returned by the following Wednesday at the latest. Activities will be based on the skills the pupils have been practising at school.

KEY STAGE ONE

Reading

Pupils should share a book with an adult at home every day.

Pupils will be given a story book to read to an adult at home. They will have read this book with their phonics teacher that week so they will be familiar with the text. Pupils will also bring home a bookbag book which is at the same decoding level.

Additionally, pupils will bring home a book from the library. This may be a book that your pupil could read to you or for you to read to them.

Parents are encouraged to ask their pupils questions about the setting and characters of a fiction text, and to retrieve information from a non-fiction text. All reading should be recorded in the pupil's reading record.

Homework

Every pupil will be given a homework pack with an exercise book, a pencil and any other relevant equipment to support the completion of set activities.

Homework activities will be sent home weekly, on a Thursday to be returned by the following Wednesday at the latest. Activities will be based on the skills the pupils have been practising at school.

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In year 2, when pupils are on the Read Write Inc. Get Spelling programme, they may also receive homework which includes the spellings of words they found difficult to spell, to practise at home.

YEAR 3, YEAR 4, YEAR 5

Years 3, 4 and 5 homework expectations:

- Daily reading
- TT Rock Stars Practice
- Spelling Practice
- One homework activity linked to current learning

Reading

In Years 3 and 4, pupils are expected to read every day. They should be able to discuss their understanding of the books that they have read. Parents should ask their pupils questions about characters, setting and content. Pupils should become more confident at recounting what they have read in fiction books and retrieve information from non-fiction texts. Throughout years 3 and 4, reading should become a more independent activity. Reading should be recorded in the pupil's Reading Record, either by the parent or the pupil.

YEAR 6

Year 6 homework expectations:

- Daily reading
- TT Rock Stars Practice
- Spelling Practice
- Two homework activities (one Maths, one English), linked to current learning or revision activity
- Reading Theory

Reading

In Years 5 and 6, pupils are expected to read every day. They should be able to discuss their understanding of the books that they have read. Parents should ask their pupils questions about characters, setting and content. Pupils should become more confident at recounting what they have read in fiction books and retrieve information from non-fiction texts. Throughout years 5 and 6, reading should continue to become a more independent activity. Reading should be recorded in the pupil's Reading Record, either by the parent or the pupil.

INCOMPLETE HOMEWORK

On the occasions where homework is not completed in Reception and Key Stage One, teachers may contact parents or carers. In Lower Key Stage Two, a discussion between the teacher and pupil will be held. The pupils are asked to remember to complete the homework the next week. If this continues, staff will communicate this with the families either at parents evening or before. In Upper Key Stage Two, the pupils will be allowed to hand in their homework the next day. If this does not happen, they will be asked to complete it during a break time. These procedures help each pupil to form good habits in preparation for secondary school.

Reviewed: September 2027

Next Review: September 2026