

Beverley St Nicholas Community Primary School



Homework Policy

Reviewed September 2010

SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

Our vision at Beverley St Nicholas Community Primary School is to create a warm, supportive, nurturing, secure and happy learning environment where everyone feels valued and is encouraged to recognise and achieve his/her full potential.

OUR AIMS ARE:

- To provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where quality relationships are important and each individual is valued and respected
- To enable everyone to experience success and help pupils develop lively, enquiring, imaginative and creative minds and reach their full potential
- To prepare children for the challenges and opportunities of adulthood in a changing world
- To provide an exciting, broad, balanced and relevant curriculum appropriate for individual needs
- To fulfil potential in all areas of school life
- To work together in partnership with parents so that they are fully informed and involved in their children's education

INCLUSION STATEMENT

Beverley St Nicholas Primary School is committed to creating a school in which the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every member of the school matter. We seek to create opportunities for all children to achieve their very best in terms of academic and personal attainments. We aim to make the curriculum accessible to all in a stimulating learning environment in which success is celebrated in all areas. We strive to make everyone feel welcome. We endeavour to work with parents and members of the community to create a supportive environment for learning.

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standard (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.

Aims and Objectives

Regular, well planned homework can:-

- enable 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 as part of our Home/School agreement
- provide opportunities for individualised 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 the preparation for future class work.
- provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.

What is Homework?

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. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:-

- Consolidating learning in class
- Reading with a parent/grandparent/sibling
- Family visits to museums etc
- Undertaking individual research for a project
- Learning number facts eg tables
- Literacy activities both written and verbal

It can be seen from this list that homework should be a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home, but are delighted to learn about children's success in other aspects of their lives and will seek to recognise this in school.

What the school will offer:

At the start of each school term the school will send out a parent information sheet informing parents about what their children will be learning about in school and how this can be supported at home. The school homework contract will be re-issued at the beginning of each school year.

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.
- Time scales for completion and submission are explicit.
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly.
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.

Types and amount of homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school.

Foundation stage: reading, spellings

Key Stage One: reading, spellings, other literacy and numeracy work (when appropriate)

Years 3 and 4: reading, literacy and numeracy which may relate to other areas of learning

Years 5 and 6: Regular weekly schedule with emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum

The Role of Parents

Parents need to discuss with their children the following questions:-

When is it a good time to do any homework?

Where is the best place for homework to be done?

What helps concentration?

How long should my homework take me?

Should I ask for help with my homework?

Who should I ask for help and how much help should I expect?

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.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

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.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy.

The policy is a working document and will be reviewed annually.