

# Homework Policy



NANSTALLON SCHOOL



**NANSTALLON VISION 2020:** *Everything we do is focused on giving every child the best teaching, environment, experiences and opportunities regardless of background and circumstance.*

Ratified by governing board	December 2018
Date for Review	December 2020
Signed Headteacher	(Ben Stephenson)
Signed Chair of Governors	(Jo Arundale)

This policy is aligned to the vision, aims and values of Nanstallon Community Primary School.

This policy complies with the Teachers' Standards

A teacher must:

1. Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils
2. Promote good progress and outcomes by pupils
3. Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils
4. Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment

This policy emphasises the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn, rather than focus on if it takes a certain amount of time. However our guidelines do also say how much time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework.

While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of this homework, a few feel that we do not set enough homework and others feel that there is too much.

The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which most people feel is reasonable and crucially is what teaching professionals agree is appropriate.

### **Why is homework important?**

- It raises your child's achievement
- It consolidates and extends the work they have done in school
- It helps to inform you about your child's school work and allows and gives you the opportunity to support this work
- It is a valuable life skill and develops good work habits for secondary school and future employment.

### **What sort of activities should children be doing?**

Our homework activities are related to the work your children are doing at school but will not always be written work. For young children it will usually be:

- Reading with parents or carers
- Learning letters and sounds
- Games or activities to practice literacy, maths or other skills including mental recall and arithmetic
- Practising number skills
- Making a project linked to the learning theme in school

For older children, homework may also include:

- Reading
- Completing English, maths or other work including multiplication tables (times table Rock Stars) and arithmetic
- Finding out information - research
- Solving problems
- Designing or making something
- Preparing a presentation to the class
- Making a project linked to the learning theme in school

## What homework should my child be doing?

This varies with different year groups. In addition to the set requirements below, teachers will provide a menu of choices linked to the topic for the term for art based and or research based project work. This will be communicated on the half term curriculum goals.

There are occasions when homework will be personalised and/or individualised in order to:

- *Secure letter formation*
- *Secure correct speech sounds*
- *Revise key concepts and facts*
- *Learn lines for a performance or event*

### Reception Pupils

- A daily reading session with a parent for approximately a minimum of 5-10 minutes.
- Most weeks there will be a phonic game to play, high frequency words to practise and/or a handwriting sheet to complete.
- Sometimes there will be a suggestion for a maths practise activity to support the maths the children have been doing that week.
- Each half term there will be a rhyme of the week to learn.

### Year 1 Pupils

- A daily reading session with a parent for a minimum of 5-10 minutes.
- There will also be either a phonic game to play, or reading and/or spelling the Y1 common exception words.
- There will be a short number or grammar skills activity weekly.

### Year 2 Pupils

- A daily reading session with a parent for 10+ minutes.
- Learning spellings from the Year 2 list of common exception words over the course of the year.
- There will be a short number or grammar skills activity weekly.

### Year 3 Pupils

- A daily reading session with a parent for 15+ minutes.
- There will be a grammar or punctuation activity.
- There will be a follow up maths activity to practise skills learnt in class that week.
- Learning spellings from the Year 3/4 list of common exception National Curriculum words.

### Year 4 Pupils

- A daily reading session with a parent for 15+ minutes – children are expected to be responsible for completing their reading diary entries. These will be checked weekly.
- There will be a grammar or punctuation activity.
- There will be a follow up maths activity to practise skills learnt in class that week.
- Learning spellings from the Year 3/4 list of common exception National Curriculum words.

### Year 5 & 6 Pupils

- A daily reading session of 20-30 minutes – children are expected to be responsible for completing their reading diary entries. These will be checked weekly.
- Learning spellings from the Year 5/6 list of common exception National Curriculum words.
- Grammar, punctuation and spelling or Comprehension task
- Maths activity to practise / consolidate skills learnt in class

## **When is homework set and what will happen if my child doesn't complete their homework?**

Homework will be set Friday

Each Friday children that do not return their homework on time will need to attend H/W club with Miss Evans on Tuesday lunchtime so that this important work can be caught up. Homework club will also serve to support any pupils that require some help.

## **Feedback on your child's homework**

The children need to know how well they have done and what they could do better. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons, or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work. If a child has difficulties with a piece of homework, they should discuss it with their teacher or you might wish to discuss the problem with us yourself.

## **Should I help my child with homework?**

Homework allows you to see what your children are doing and to support their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education.

A short summary of the week's learning will be included with your child's homework so that you can support further learning or consolidation.

We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved - as long as they do not take over too much!

If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher. They will be pleased to see you and will help you to get the balance right.

## **13 things you can do to help your child learn**

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
  - *You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.*
  - *Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is effective and help develop a growth mindset. Saying "you're clever" will develop a fixed mindset and will not help them to persevere when they find work difficult.*
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible – *at least 20 minutes a day.*
3. Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc.
  - *Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.*
4. Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the homework activity. *Why not create a homework station kitted out with special stationery?*
5. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework.
6. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
7. Try to set time aside to support your child's homework activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.

8. Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting.  
*Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.*

9. Make use of your local library.

- *Look out for special events and services for children.*

10. Go for a walk and enjoy the great outdoors. You could list 5 things to look for e.g. a particular leaf, squirrel or type of tree.

11. If your child likes watching television, watch it together sometimes and talk about what has been watched. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will gain a lot from the discussion.  
*Manage their screen time very carefully.*

12. Help your child to see the importance of homework and teach them to become more independent and take more responsibility for themselves as they get older.

13. Remind your child(ren) to complete and hand in homework on time. A copy of your child's homework programme will be provided at the start of each year and will be available to view on the class webpage.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We want your children to succeed.