

# Homework Policy



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**July 18**

Written: Apr 11

Reviewed: May 14: Types of homework for each year group changed

Reviewed: June 16: Added 30 minutes maximum and optional holiday homework in light of parent survey.

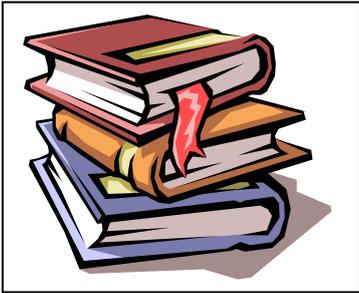
Accepted by Governors: July 16

Reviewed: July 18 to clarify reading expectations

## GORSE COVERT PRIMARY SCHOOL

### HOMEWORK POLICY

We firmly believe that parents' interest in, and assistance with schoolwork has a beneficial effect on a child's learning. It helps to strengthen the links between home and school, and has a positive impact on the child's attitude to their schoolwork. We have, therefore, prepared this policy so that parents will know when homework is to be expected, what might be set and its purpose. This way we hope that each parent can ensure that each child completes the work set, to the best of his/her ability.



We aim to set homework, which supports the learning that takes place in the classroom, such as practising skills or research into a topic. Homework at primary school also helps to prepare the children for their secondary school education.

The amount of homework set will follow the guidelines below.

- Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour a week for reading, spellings and other literacy and numeracy work.
- Years 3 and 4 – 1½ hours a week for literacy and numeracy and for occasional projects in other subjects
- Years 5 and 6 – up to 30 minutes a day with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum. Children in Y5/6 will receive a consequence if homework is not completed and parents will be informed if this occurs on more than 3 occasions.
- It is expected that no one piece of homework should take more than 30 minutes.

At Key Stage 1 and in the Reception classes, the key purpose is to involve parents actively in the child's learning with activities and games, spellings, number facts and reading.

As children get older, the main purpose increasingly becomes providing opportunities for the children to develop the skill of independent learning.

#### **Parents should:**

- Provide a time and suitable place for homework to be completed.
- Make it clear to their children that they value homework.
- Encourage their children and praise them when it is completed.
- Become actively involved in the homework of younger children and interested in the homework of older children.
- Expect older children to meet deadlines and check they have done so.
- Inform the class teacher if their child is experiencing difficulty with their homework.



If your child cannot complete the homework we would appreciate a short note of explanation. Judging by the standard of much of the homework returned, many parents thoroughly enjoy the research element involved and feel that they positively contribute to their child's learning.

## The Importance of Reading

Your child's class teacher spends all day teaching the class and does not have additional time to hear individual readers. This is sometimes done by the Teaching Assistant or additional volunteers but the main person to assist your child with individual reading is **you**. Your child will be **taught how to read** through phonics teaching, shared reading in English lessons, plus guided reading in a small group once a week. The **practising of reading** is done through reading their individual reading book at home.

It is expected that you should be hearing your child read at **least 3 times per week** at home (our homework guidelines say that this should ideally be done daily). This is in addition to guided reading sessions that your child does in school with the teacher once a week, plus individual reading when there is an additional member of staff/volunteer available. Your child should have their book in school every day so that we can provide these additional opportunities.

Reading is the gateway to almost every other area of the curriculum and so if your child cannot read fluently at **book band 10 by the end of Y2 (book band 6 in Y1)** then they will struggle significantly with the Key Stage 2 curriculum, preventing them from reaching the expected standard in Y6. Not reaching the expected standard in Y6 hugely affects your child's ability to gain a pass at GCSE in English and Maths.

We understand many of you are busy with work and other commitments but we cannot stress enough the importance of finding time to hear your child read for 5-10 minutes on at least 3 occasions per week. Falling behind in the infant years makes it much more difficult to catch up later on. Not being able to read properly makes all other subjects more difficult and affects their writing ability too. This can then cause problems with self-esteem as children become more aware that they are behind their peers.

It is also helpful to develop a love of reading by reading **to** your child as a bedtime story or at other times. Sharing a book with your child should be an enjoyable experience that will develop fond memories for children.

### Teachers will:

- Inform parents of the days homework is set and ensure there is ample time for a child to complete the homework i.e. set over a mix of weekdays and weekends.
- Set homework tasks according to guidelines set out above.
- Ensure that homework supports learning and is differentiated to meet your child's needs and ability.
- Review completed homework tasks.
- Try to vary the type of homework-written exercises and creative projects.
- Give homework in the school holidays (except the summer holiday) which will be optional. If a child completes the set homework it will be praised and shared with others but there will be no consequence for not completing it.
- Inform parents if homework is not done more than 3 times.

From time to time all teachers may send additional work home, if in their judgement a child will benefit from extra help and practice. Work, which is unfinished in class, may be sent home for your child to complete if the teacher feels that it could reasonably have been completed during lesson time.

### Children should:

- Complete homework tasks to the best of your ability.

- Meet homework deadlines.
- Look after homework book and carry between home and school.

Please sign to show that you have seen and agree to operate the Homework Policy.

The second copy may be retained for your information.

Thank you.

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*We will set homework as follows:*

**Reception Children**

- *Reading books, High Frequency Words and varied tasks covering all areas of the Foundation Stage.*
- *Homework is sent out on a Friday and to be back in school the following Wednesday.*

**Year 1 / 2**

- *Reading is expected to be done daily; either 10 minutes per day or 4 pages. Minimum of 3 times per week.*
- *A piece of English, Maths or Topic based homework is sent home each Friday to be returned on Wednesday.*
- *Spellings are to be practised weekly.*

**Year 3 / 4**

- *Reading is expected to be done daily.*
- *Spellings and tables - ongoing practice*
- *Approximately 1 piece of English and Maths work per week. (Occasionally Topic work is sent instead of English or Maths)*

**Year 5/6**

- *Reading – ongoing.*
- *Spellings, tables and Mental Maths – ongoing.*
- *3 pieces of homework per week.*

*Homework will be provided in the holidays but it is optional to complete this homework. Homework that is completed will be celebrated but there will be no consequence for work that is not completed.*