



Braeside School

Homework Policy

Introduction

Braeside School promotes the setting of regular homework for the following reasons:

- To consolidate and reinforce learning that has taken place at School
- To develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed for independent learning
- To extend the learning and enhance curriculum provision
- To involve parents in their child's learning through support and monitoring

Why do we set homework?

- It provides an extra learning opportunity
- It promotes skills needed for lifelong learning
- It encourages and supports independent learning

Principles

- The learning intentions for each homework should be clearly identified to the pupils being set the homework in their student planner
- Homework needs to be properly differentiated to ensure that Gifted and Talented pupils are extended and SEN and EAL pupils are adequately supported
- Where homework is not completed, this needs to be recorded by the teacher and an appropriate sanction given
- Form Tutors and relevant SLT will keep an overview of homework completion

The types of homework set

These can take a wide range of options, such as:

- Reading
- Spellings
- Research or investigations
- Learning and revising
- Factual and imaginative writing
- Illustration
- Map-work
- Information retrieval
- Preparation for lessons and follow-up
- Drafting
- Project work
- Preparation for Controlled Assessments

Homework/Study Clubs

- Pupils may use the Library when supervised at break/lunchtimes and after School
- Many individual teachers run clubs to help support, particularly older pupils, in completing homework and preparing for GCSE examinations

Juniors – Homework Guidelines for parents

We believe that homework and home learning can provide an excellent opportunity for parents to become actively involved in their children’s learning as well as giving them a window on school work.

We have produced some guidelines for you, which are also our expectations. We hope that you will find this document informative and helpful.

Why do we set homework?

- It encourages independent learning
- It promotes self-discipline and perseverance
- It assists individual pupils in progressing at a rate suitable to their own ability
- It assists in reinforcing classroom learning
- It encourages pupils to undertake some independent study
- It develops the skills of enquiry and investigation.

What homework will be set?

The Junior staff recognise the need for children to have the time to follow out-of-school interests and family activities and the following **guidelines** allow for these important events to take place.

Key Stage 1 (age 5-7)

KS1 pupils should spend no more than 30 minutes on homework provided this is within their own ability range as the timing of all activities is flexible to the individual needs of the pupil.

English, Maths and Science form an important foundation for KS1 and your child’s homework will reflect this, although other subjects may be given for homework should the class teacher consider it appropriate.

Homework includes:

Year 1

- Your child is expected to read to an adult each evening and to complete the **Reading Record** provided
- Your child will always have spellings to complete each week
- Mathematical activities will usually be issued once per week
- English activities will usually be issued once per week

Year 2

- Your child is expected to read to an adult each evening and to complete the **Reading Record** provided
- Science, English and or Mathematics will usually be given once per week
- Spellings and tables will be given

Key Stage 2 (age 7-11)

KS2 pupils should spend approximately 30-45 minutes on homework (inclusive of 15 minutes reading) In September the class teacher will send home a letter to parents detailing what the homework routine will be.

Pupils will usually receive homework for 4 evenings out of every 5 and parents should ensure that this work is completed satisfactorily, notifying the relevant teacher of any difficulties. Parents should ensure that their child’s Reading Record is completed and is kept up to date. Homework will be written in the pupil homework diary.

On occasions, pupils may be given the opportunity to undertake research work in certain subjects such as Science, History and Geography and this may involve using the public library or internet. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that this work is completed.

The Homework Diary

Juniors pupils are expected to record accurately (with the assistance of their teachers where appropriate) homework in a diary, which will be given to them, as well as the date it is due. Parents are expected to sign the diary at the end of each week (and comment, if they want to) in order to confirm that set homework has been completed satisfactorily.

Parents should communicate any concerns in relation to homework to the pupil's class teacher in the first instance, after which concerns may be directed to the Head of the Juniors.

Parental Support and Involvement

- Provide a private, quiet place for your child to complete homework
- Ensure that your child completes all the set homework on a daily basis
- Help your child with their homework as appropriate
- Check the presentation of your child's work
- Check and assist as appropriate with spellings
- Give active encouragement and praise to your child, testing them on their knowledge as and when appropriate
- If your child cannot complete the homework for a particular reason, write a note to the teacher whose homework was not completed, explaining any reasons as appropriate
- Support the school in all disciplinary matters relating to homework.

Senior School – Homework Guidelines for parents

We believe that homework and home learning can provide an excellent opportunity for parents to become actively involved in their children's learning.

We have produced some guidelines for you, which we hope you will find document informative and helpful.

Why do we set homework?

- It encourages independent study
- It promotes self-discipline and perseverance
- It allows more rapid progress through the course
- It allows more time in class for tasks needing the teacher's presence
- It reinforces classroom learning
- It extends pupils' study
- It helps to develop skills and attitudes for lifelong learning
- It encourages the habits of enquiry and investigation.

Kinds of Homework set – all relevant, all equally valuable

- Writing tasks
- Note-taking
- Worksheets
- Questions
- Reading
- Revision for test
- Preparation for new topics
- Research using Internet and reference material
- Preparing a presentation or role play
- Data gathering such as the use of questionnaires
- Any other type of work which may be set as appropriate

Differentiated Homework – how much time should be spent on homework?

Differences between pupils are recognised in school within classes and groups. Homework is also differentiated at this level providing extension, enrichment or consolidation according to the pupil's need. As a guideline, pupils in Years 7-9 are expected to spend about 30 minutes per subject. In Years 10-11 this should rise to at least 1 hour.

Learning a musical instrument

Parents should encourage pupils who are learning a musical instrument to set aside time for regular practice if they are to benefit from the instrumental lessons they receive in School. Individual instrumental teachers should be able to advise on the appropriate practice times.

The Homework Timetable

This is published annually and gives guidance on the subjects set on a daily basis. It also provides additional subject-specific information, which needs to be read in conjunction with the timetable. It is also available from the School's website.

The Student Planner

All pupils have a Student Planner. Each pupil is expected to record accurately the homework that has been set as well as the date by which it is due. The homework diary can be used to communicate with the subject teacher over homework issues. Parents are asked to sign the diary on a weekly basis, having checked that all work has been completed satisfactorily. The School cannot emphasise enough the importance of parents monitoring their child's progress with regard to homework.

Parental Support and Involvement

- Provide a private quiet place for your child to complete homework
- Ensure that your child completes all the work set on a daily basis
- Help your child with their homework as appropriate
- Check the presentation of your child's work
- Check and give help with spellings
- Test what has been learnt to help with reinforcement
- Ask your child to explain some of the work to you
- Encourage and provide space for your child to tackle homework in a disciplined and independent manner
- Write a note to each teacher whose homework was not completed or attempted, explaining any reasons as appropriate
- If your child is involved in out-of-school activities, provide a routine whereby homework tasks can still be completed on time
- Parents are asked to support the school in disciplinary matters related to homework. Missing homework must be completed at the earliest opportunity, whether under parents' supervision or during detention at School.