Homework Policy

Longford Park School
Statement

“Homework is important at all stages in a child’s education”. “When used properly it extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximum effect.”

At Longford Park School we regard the term “homework” as any other work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time either on their own or with parents or carers.

We strive to ensure that the pupils at Longford Park School have opportunities in line with those they would experience in mainstream education and homework is included in this. This is crucial for the dual registered pupils in that they continue the good habits developed in mainstream education and extended their learning opportunities. It is also crucial for the full time Longford Park pupils as they maintain habits in line with mainstream education to avoid possible difficulties with reintegration. Also, crucially homework furthers the learning opportunities for our pupils.

Each member of staff will carefully consider each pupil’s individual learning needs, ability and support from home when setting homework.

Aims of Homework

Through Homework we aim to:
✓ Develop an effective partnership between the school and parents or carers in pursuing the aims of the school:
✓ Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and Numeracy;
✓ Extend school learning;
✓ Encourage pupils as they get older to develop confidence and self discipline to study independently in preparation for secondary school;
✓ Develop curiosity and independent learners.

Type and Amount of Homework:

Key Stage 1 - reading together as well as short activities of different types, ie simple games, learning spellings and number facts.

Key Stage 2 - reading of a wider variety of text, as well as developing independent learning through spellings, writing, number skills and developing research skills.

Reception, Years 1-2

The activities which teachers set to be done at home support successful learning. The activities or tasks which the youngest children bring home are designed, wherever possible, to invite parental interest and involvement. Homework activities for children at this developmental stage will take into account:
✓ The vital importance of developing reading, writing and numeracy skills.
✓ The need for clear, regular and achievable tasks and monitoring.
✓ The full potential range of partnership by parents.
✓ The additional needs of some children for extra help.

Reading

Reading can involve parents in listening, discussing characters or plot; asking questions and helping pupils to know sounds and basic punctuation.
Year 3 – Year 6
As children get older, homework keeps pace with the demands of the curriculum and prepares the children for the transition to secondary school.

Role of Parents and Carers
We would encourage parents and carers to:
✓ Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework - alone or in the case of younger children, together with an adult.
✓ Make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
✓ Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.
✓ Make use of the local library. Look out for special events and services for children.
✓ Visit museums and places of interest.
✓ Hear their child read and encourage them to read as much and as widely as possible.
✓ Help with any basic queries and errors, eg a few spelling words or punctuation points or a request to help look something up in a dictionary or reference book.
✓ Help by testing – in a friendly and positive way as possible! Spelling is best tested by asking the child to write the word. Tables and other facts are best tested orally.
✓ Pen a brief note of any difficulties, upsets or unusual circumstances.

Feedback
✓ This can be done in a variety of ways, suitable to particular exercises.
✓ Recognition of children's efforts.
✓ Use of home school diaries and homework logs.
✓ Prompt formal marking of work by the teachers.
✓ Where appropriate, work returned to the children to share with parents or carers.

Our homework planning for children at this key stage will:
✓ Maintain the emphasis on raising levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy.
✓ Enable pupils to master key skills, for example, communication.
✓ Enable pupils to extend their knowledge base.
✓ Enable pupils to extend their range of reference and research skills.
✓ Encourage pupils to become independent learners.
✓ Prepare pupils for the demands of the secondary curriculum. In addition to homework designed to reinforce basic skills, set homework for pupils at KS2, where appropriate will have a greater emphasis on written work and on project work.

We have planned our Homework Policy in terms of:
✓ Supporting learning and teaching through homework.
✓ Helping pupils to achieve through homework.
✓ Involving parents through homework.
✓ Considering pupils individual learning needs and abilities