



# Holway Park School Homework Policy

June 2024  
Review 2028

## Holway Park Community Primary School Homework Policy

Parents/Carers and school working together as active partners is important in creating relationships with the school. Having a workable, realistic and well understood homework policy is an important part of this partnership.

When making our decision about homework the school took into consideration the evidence and research available. The SLT and Governing Body considered their statutory duty with regard to consideration for staff workload.

Effective homework is associated with greater parental involvement and support and can be developed to increase parental engagement. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Homework should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils.

Homework can be an opportunity for parents to develop a deeper understanding of their child's learning, a chance to share and explore learning started in school. Regular reading to and with parents/carers is vital. Our suggestion is that all our primary aged children should either read to their parents/carers or to be read to, for between twenty and thirty minutes a day.

Another consideration Governors took into account was the workload balance for school staff. Our first priority as a school is high quality first teaching during the school day, this requires significant time for marking, assessing and planning future teaching and learning needs of the pupils. It was essential that the provision of homework did not provide an additional workload that would have a detrimental impact on this.

### **What is Homework?**

Homework can be anything children do outside the normal school day. It encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by parents/carers and teachers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Our aim is to provide activities that require engagement with parents/carers and not provide worksheets to be completed in isolation. The expectation is that children will complete their homework. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis.

### **Types of homework**

**In Foundation Stage** we believe that parents should share books and nurse rhymes with their child. Sharing books is just as valuable in aiding a child's progress in reading as is your child reading to you or to their teachers. Parents also receive a copy of the school handwriting style and phonics scheme and parents, if they wish, are encouraged to practice this with their children.

**In Key Stage 1** we ask parents/carers to support their child through home learning. This includes reading daily for about twenty minutes. (Remember this can include sharing books and you reading to your child). In addition parents/carers are given a copy of the text map linked to the writing program being taught in school. Parents/Carer are also given a copy of

the school handwriting style and encouraged to practice this at home. Maths games are also available for the children to take home and play if parents wish.

**At Key Stage 2**, we continue to ask parents/carers to read and discuss with their child regularly each week at home, guidance on how to do this is found in our Parents/carers information leaflets on Reading at Home. From September 2024 Children in Key Stage 2 will be given a Research Project once or twice a year to complete that extends their learning in school, this project has set success criteria and return date. Maths games are available for the children to take home and play with their family and we also encourage parents/carers to encourage children to practice their multiplication tables at home.

### **Additional Resources Available for Parents**

Available for parents if they wish are the high frequency words used in writing which parents can practice with their child. If a parent would like some guidance on some additional practice teachers are able to provide this but they will not mark any additional homework.

### **The role of parents and carers**

We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them.