



# Homework Policy

## Keig School



*To lead happy, healthy lives as active citizens and confident life-long learners.*

## Keig School Homework Policy

### **Aims of the Homework Policy**

- to provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework
- to establish the pattern and content of homework
- to ensure a consistent and progressive approach to homework across the school
- to outline our homework expectations for all
- to identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.

### **Our Journey**

At Keig School we consulted with staff, parents, pupils and research regarding the purpose of homework. Among younger pupils, homework was considered 'bad' and made them feel 'sad', while older pupils recognised that homework provided for more time to practise and help get better. The majority of parents felt that the expected amount of homework was just right, and there was a strong preference for regular reading with spelling and numeracy to be alternated and opportunities for STEM or social subjects where appropriate. Research by John Hattie reports that homework has a small impact on learning in primary schools. We have used all this information to inform this policy.

### **Definition**

At Keig School we view homework as an opportunity to consolidate and extend pupil learning experiences from school. This can be achieved through supported or independent tasks undertaken outside of school hours.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of homework at Keig School is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. It enables children to practise and consolidate skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. It also aims to enable children to take responsibility for their own learning and to become independent learners.

## **Expectations and organisation**

Progression is planned from P1 - 7 through the provision of appropriate activities and the increasing expectations we have of our children as they move up through the school.

## **How much homework?**

P1 and 2	Approximately 10 - 15 minutes per day
P3 – 5	Approximately 15 - 20 minutes per day
P6 and 7	Approximately 20 – 25 minutes per day

## **Pattern of Homework**

Homework will be handed out on a Monday and is expected to be returned on or before the Friday of that week. From time to time there may be extended pieces of work at the upper stages of the school and this will be communicated clearly when distributed. Homework will not be distributed during the first or last week of a term or during short weeks, except for reading.

## **What homework will be given?**

Pupils will receive homework in the following areas weekly:

- Reading – The development of reading skills continues at all stages of the school. Details specific to your child's in their Home School Learning Record.
- Alternate Weeks: Spelling – Spelling activities will be a balance of written and active approaches. Pupils spelling words will link to the sound and phonemes (P1-2) being taught in class or from the word lists provided (P3-7).
- Maths and/or another topic– This activity will consolidate or extend pupils skills from class learning. It may be practical (e.g. a game or computer activity) or a written task (e.g. a worksheet). Education City tasks will be given in moderation and will support this area (Maths, Language or Science)

At times, pupils may receive an additional piece of homework covering other curricular areas e.g. Science, Health, Listening and Talking, Social Studies, Technologies, Modern Languages etc. Teachers will strive to ensure that homework is interesting and relevant and can be achieved within the time guidance given overleaf.

## Roles

<b>Class Teachers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To set purposeful activities with clear learning intentions and success criteria</li><li>• To ensure homework is interesting, relevant and at the correct level.</li><li>• Work with parents and pupils, being sensitive to the difficulties which may arise for certain children to work at home e.g. lack of materials, lack of quiet space etc.</li><li>• To mark homework weekly and provide feedback.</li><li>• Ensure time deadlines are suitable e.g. give longer for research projects.</li></ul>
<b>Pupils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To complete tasks to the best of their ability (with increasing independence as they move through the school).</li><li>• Share their learning with parents and ask to sign (if necessary).</li><li>• Respect homework materials and follow jotter expectations as in class work.</li><li>• Take responsibility for organising any information or equipment they require.</li></ul>
<b>Parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be aware of what homework is set and provide both encouragement and an appropriate environment for its completion</li><li>• Encourage neat presentation.</li><li>• Talk to your child about their learning.</li><li>• Get in touch with the school if you have any questions or concerns.</li><li>• If homework is causing problems at home please do get in touch with the class teacher or Head Teacher to discuss how we can support with this.</li><li>• Parents are requested to sign all homework to say that you have seen the work – it is important that home and school work together to ensure high levels of effort and standards of presentation.</li></ul>

## **Home School Learning Records**

Every pupil in the school is provided with a Home School Learning Record.

The purpose and aim of the records is to:

- promote independence and organisational skills in all of our learners
- record homework given and assist with meeting deadlines
- create more links between home and school
- provide information to parents
- provide an easy and effective means of communication between home and school.
- indicate that parents have seen pupil homework by signing the record.

## **Additional Learning out of School - websites**

If you feel your child would benefit from additional skill development/consolidation look at the school newsletter for a list of relevant websites for their age and stage.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

It is the role of the Head Teacher, alongside staff, to monitor the homework policy throughout the school and school year. This is done through regular jotter sampling and professional discussions with teachers, pupils and parents. It is featured on the Quality Assurance calendar. Feedback from this monitoring is used to inform staff of necessary developments in order to raise standards.