

Staff responsible	Paul Shaw
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Governing body ratified	19/12/2018
Chair of Governors	<i>Liz Bailey</i>
Review cycle	3 years
Next review	13/10/2021

1. DEFINITION

1.1 Homework is defined as: any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or guardians.

2. THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

2.1 The school regards the purpose of homework as being to:

- Develop an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for independent living and learning.

2.2 At Brent Knoll School we see work done at home as a valuable way of supporting the work done in school.

2.3 Homework is not set for all students as a matter of course. It is recognised that most would need considerable support from a family member to undertake the tasks at home. During parents' evenings when IEP targets are reviewed, ideas for supporting your child at home may be recommended which would fulfil the role of homework. These would be specific to your child's needs e.g. specific tasks set by the SALT team. Curriculum plans, which give an indication of the topics being taught in each subject across each term, can be found on the school website and are sent home termly. This gives the opportunity for parents to enrich the teaching and learning provided by the school by undertaking supportive visits or research if they judge this to be appropriate to their child. Teachers also make every effort to work closely with parents in the development of self-help and independence skills and in the management of behaviour where consistency between home and school is especially important.

3. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR HOMEWORK

- 3.1 All parents are encouraged to read with their children and to encourage the children to read alone. Activities may be sent home to share from time to time or families may be requested to support their child's learning by sending in objects or photographs from home in connection with a specific topic. Teachers are always willing to give advice on ways of extending learning at home and will send specific materials if requested. The development of communication skills is a priority for many students. Parents are encouraged for example to use the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) in the home environment. Speech and Language reports are shared with parents alongside suggested activities.
- 3.2 In response to parental willingness to support their child in doing homework, class teachers will set homework each week in the form of spellings, reading or tasks related to the topic being studied. Parents will have the option at admission and each subsequent annual review (AR) of the Education Health and care Plan (EHCP) of selecting whether or not their child receives homework. Where possible, more than one night will be given to complete the homework to give families some flexibility. We would not wish to put any pressure on parents to ask for homework. The majority of our students need a lot of support to complete their work, so it does place an extra demand on the parents. It is also understood that homework is not appropriate for all students or in all family situations.
- 3.3 The following are examples of homework activities that may be set:
- Reading/researching items related to a lesson
 - Worksheets
 - Practice of self-help/life skills
 - Symbol Activities
 - Finding Information
 - Maths Workbooks
 - Drawing
 - Colouring Sheets
 - Watching specific TV programmes
 - Cut and paste and sequencing tasks
 - Tasks related to Accredited Schemes (KS4) e.g. past exam questions/coursework.
- 3.4 Parents are encouraged to discuss any issues related to homework via the contact book, at the Annual Review, Parents' Evenings or by contacting the class teacher.

4. GENERAL STATEMENT

- 4.1 At Brent Knoll School teaching staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon.
- 4.2 We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities, for example your child may attend swimming, football, youth clubs, music lessons or many other types of after-school activities offered by the school or that you have arranged independently.
- 4.3 Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school.
- 4.4 Homework is planned to be meaningful. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school.
- 4.5 This approach aims to support children's growing perception about their ability to complete a task outside the school environment. It also fosters the skills of independent learning.
- 4.6 We all recognise the importance of providing positive feedback to the children, being generous in our praise within the context of our expectations of each pupil's achievement and to follow up an aspect of school work by visiting different sources e.g. local library, Internet, etc.

- 4.7 We encourage the children to think of this work as valuable and as a challenge. It should be undertaken to the best of their ability.
- 4.8 We are mindful that specific tasks in the form of Individual Education Programmes for children with Special Educational Needs will be set.
- 4.9 Parents will be made aware of this as appropriate.
- 4.10 Parents will be made aware of how they can help their child through discussion with class teacher at planned meetings.