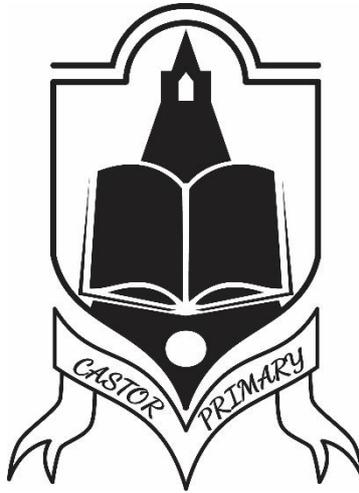


Castor C.E. Primary School

Policy Name: Homework

Committee Responsible for Policy: Learning and Progress

Policy written by: Headteacher



Date presented to staff: September 2022

Date approved by Governors: September 2022

Review Date: September 2023

Where: website, relevant to staff induction, school network – Staff > Policies > Curriculum

Equality Act Statement:

1. We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to age (as appropriate), disability, ethnicity, gender (including issues of transgender, and of maternity and pregnancy), religion and belief, and sexual identity.
2. We welcome our duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion.
3. We recognise that these duties reflect international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

Please refer to Castor School's Equality Statement

Our School Vision:

'We have faith in God, ourselves and everyone around us in order to achieve our full potential academically, emotionally, socially and physically, thereby empowering us all to make a positive difference to the world.'

Jesus said, 'if you believe, you will see the glory of God' (John Ch 11 vs 40). He also gave his disciples a new commandment - to 'love one another' (John Ch13 vs 34). Yet still, "The apostles said to the Lord 'increase our faith'" (Luke Ch17 vs5).

Castor Church of England Primary School will be a place where all are encouraged to search for signs of God's glory and, in so doing, people's faith will be increased, and they will have the grace to follow Jesus' commandment to love one another

Our School Values:



Early Years

There is a flexible approach to homework in the Reception Class.

Children have reading books sent home for the week: a free choice library book selected from the classroom or the library and also a phonically decodable reading book once they are able to decode and blend accurately and fluently. Parents are provided with a phonics booklet with guidelines around the type of phonically decodable reading book their child is reading and a reading record book in which to write a comment if they wish to. The expectation is that once children are blending fluently enough to have a decodable reading book that parents will read at least a page a night with their child – little and often is the key to developing good reading habits and supporting children at this early stage of reading.

Homework tasks are set at various times in a term and are generally related to topics or to support specific phonics or maths learning.

Children's rates of development are such that it will not necessarily be appropriate for all children to have activities to do at home, but the class teacher and the child's parents will always liaise and communicate closely about all homework activities in Foundation Stage.

Children are also encouraged to bring in objects and books in order to stimulate talk in the classroom and to develop their vocabulary skills.

Key Stage 1

Children should spend at least 10 minutes a night reading. This should be recorded in the reading record book provided by school. Children receive two levelled reading books and choose a library book each week.

Each term, children are given a homework grid with a selection of activities to choose from, linked to their learning in class. A minimum of three pieces of work should be completed and handed in towards the end of each half term (totalling a minimum of six). This work is rewarded with denarii which can be saved or spent in the Castor Bank and Shop.

All children are given a homework book in which to share their work and are expected to record and present their work neatly as they would do within the classroom. Children are expected to read their school reading book in addition to set homework. Sometimes the Class Teacher, in liaison with parents, will set specific maths learning for children to do at home such as practising number bonds to 20 or beginning to learn times tables.

In year 2, weekly spellings may be sent home in order to further support their learning for the end of KS1.

Key Stage 2

Children should spend at least 20 minutes a night reading.

Each term, children are given a homework grid with a selection of activities to choose from, linked to their learning in class. A minimum of three pieces of work should be completed and handed in towards the end of each half term (totalling a minimum of six). This work is rewarded with denarii which can be saved or spent in the Castor Bank and Shop.

All children are given a homework book in which to share their work and are expected to record and present their work neatly as they would do within the classroom. Children are expected to read their school reading book in addition to set homework along with key maths skills for the year group that can be found at the top of the homework grid each half term.

Extension Activities

A termly curriculum leaflet provides guidance for each class on areas of study.

Children in Key Stage 2 have logins for MyMaths online learning as well as Tackling Tables online.

Parents are always able to communicate with teachers through comments in homework books, by email or by arranging a meeting after school via the school office.

Marking of Homework

Homework is marked in line with the school's marking policy, and before the book is returned to the child.

Homework

How can you help your child with their homework?

By showing an interest in your child's homework you are communicating the fact that school work is important and needs to be taken seriously. Encourage your child to complete homework to the best of their ability and have high expectations for their work.

The Benefits

Parents who take an interest in their child's homework have a better knowledge of their education. Additionally, children who are able to complete assignments successfully are likely to develop a good working attitude.

Why is Homework Important?

Homework set prior to a lesson can aid understanding later in class. Homework also provides opportunities for reinforcement of work learned during school time. Having the responsibility of needing to meet deadlines promotes self-discipline, an attribute which will impact on school work and beyond.

When should we do the homework?

When working out when to do the homework, planning is all important. Some families like to plan one piece of homework on three different weekends, some families like to "get it done and over with" as soon as possible, some families leave it to the last minute. We can usually tell when the last case scenario has happened. Whatever works for you and your other commitments is fine with us. We ask that you manage to plan enough time for your child to produce a worthwhile piece of work that they can be proud of. It is a minimum of three pieces of homework across a term. Some families choose to do a piece each week which is more than acceptable. This systems allows for the flexibility of family life.

Practical Ways to help your child with their homework

Provide a quiet, well lit study area and avoid distractions such as the television and loud music. Try to have a regular homework routine. Obviously household routines differ but try to do it when your child is not too tired or rush it after an out of school club. It is important to get a good balance of a range of activities for your child which should include their homework.

Give your child opportunities do homework activities independently as well as supported by adults around them. Show an interest in your child's homework and make time to talk about what they are doing. Some of the homework may be a project that you would like to work on together.

Praise Effort and Achievement

It is vital to praise your child for his or her efforts and achievements. Positive comments are more effective than negative ones. A child can become disaffected if continually reminded of shortcomings. Building self-esteem is very important if your child is to succeed with school work.

Provide Equipment

Ensure your child has basic equipment such as pens, pencils and ruler. Try not to use rubbers. If your child makes a mistake, cross it out neatly with a single line. Other useful items could include scissors, glue and sticky tape. If a piece of homework requires additional equipment which you do not have, please feel free to come in and ask to borrow it from the classroom.

Concerns with Homework

From time to time you may have concerns about homework. Please come in and see us if any difficulties arise.

Most importantly, make the homework fun and rewarding for all involved.

Homework reminders

Your work should be presented as carefully as possible. Think about how we ask you to present work in your books at school.

Please always draw in pencil and write in either pencil or pen. Like school, please don't use biro.

If you are colouring pictures, please use pencil crayons or felt tips that don't leak through the pages.

Use guidelines to help you keep your writing straight on any plain pages without lines. If the lines are difficult to see, draw some lines lightly with a ruler.

If you have any problems finding out information at home, please ask about using the internet or books at school but don't wait until just before it is due to be handed in!

If you need to stick something in your book, please stick it in so that it passes the 'curly corner test'. (You might need to explain to your grown-ups what it is!)

Your grown-ups can obviously help you with your homework, but make sure you have a go for yourself first.