

<u>Reviewer</u> S. L. T.	<b>BROOKFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL</b> <b><u>Homework Policy</u></b>	<u>Review date</u> September 2017
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### **Rationale**

Homework is important at all stages in a child's education and it makes a significant contribution to the development of independent learning.

Homework refers to any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. This work will be marked where appropriate.

### **The Purpose of Homework**

- Helps to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the school.
- Consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding.
- Extends school learning e.g. through additional reading and research.
- Encourages pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own.

### **Aims**

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account.
- Ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves and their children.
- Encourage the development of positive attitudes towards learning among children.
- Extend and support children's learning experiences via reinforcement and revision.
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership.
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- Equip the pupils, with the self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the increased demands of secondary school homework.

### **Type of Homework set**

Homework is set according to the age and ability of the child.

The main focus is on practicing and improving basic skills in literacy and numeracy, with tasks/research based on topics in science, history or geography.

Sometimes children are expected to complete a task on their own; at other times parents/carers are asked to work alongside them.

Homework does not just mean formal exercises, carried out by children, without help from adults.

All tasks are planned as part of the school's schemes of work for different areas of the curriculum.

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### **Homework Timetable and Organisation**

Each week children are expected to engage in reading activities. They will bring a reading book home ~ either a book from a reading scheme or one that they have chosen from the classroom or library.

Primarily the book is to be read by the child, but this activity can be a shared experience and adults may wish to read together with their child.

In addition, children will be expected to learn their spellings and their times tables. There will be regular tests in these areas to promote increased knowledge and basic skills.

Some activities may relate to e-learning programs that give opportunities to practice and improve basic skills. The programs we use are ~ Mathletics and Bug Club.

The amount of time to be spent on homework varies according to the age of the children. At Brookfield we follow the government guidelines:-

Homework for Years 3 and 4 = approx 20 minutes per evening

Homework for Years 5 and 6 = approx 30 minutes per evening

In Years 3, 4 and 5 a termly project is set which will involve a variety of tasks including Maths/English/Science/History/Geography skills as appropriate.

In Year 6, subject related homework tasks are set in order to prepare the children for their transition to Secondary School.

### **Role of the Parent/Carer**

#### **We hope that parents/carers will:**

- Provide a reasonably peaceful place in which your child can do his/her homework, either alone or together with you.
- Make it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school.
- Help your child choose a suitable time to do his/her homework. This involves being aware of any out-of-school activities and timetabling the homework accordingly. Reading can be undertaken at a different time to the other homework tasks e.g. at bedtime.
- Send a brief note to school when home circumstances have prevented homework being carried out.
- Encourage your child and praise them when they have completed their homework.
- Help your child to organise and protect his/her homework resources, ensuring that the work is returned to school on the appropriate day.

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### **Role of the School**

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure the homework is appropriate to the age and ability of the child and in accordance with the school's schemes of work.
- To provide a variety of opportunities, some of which involve the parent and pupil working together.
- To encourage and praise children who complete their homework.
- To provide feedback in a variety of ways, e.g. Class discussion the next day, individual teacher comments .....
- To explain the homework task clearly and offer help to any child who has not understood.
- To inform and advise parents/carers on how they can support their child.
- To offer opportunities for children to carry out research tasks using school internet facilities (especially for children without internet access at home).

### **Special Educational Needs**

It is important that children with particular needs do as much in common with other children as possible. At Brookfield, these children are given plenty of opportunity to succeed. Their homework tasks are varied and not purely written and, where necessary, might help to develop social skills as well as other skills.

### **Equal Opportunities**

At Brookfield there is no discrimination for reasons of gender, race, class, religion, culture or disability. Our curriculum is planned in such a way as to promote equality of opportunity and tolerance towards everyone.

### **Monitoring**

Home Learning books are monitored and marked on a regular basis by staff. Consistent efforts are rewarded and pupils who do not complete homework can complete it in school in their own time.

Homework Club is run at lunchtimes for this purpose.

Each class teacher keeps a register of completed homework. This helps to monitor children's attitudes and achievement and helps inform discussions with parents at Consultation Evenings held in Term 2 and Term 4.

Parents will be notified by letter if their child regularly fails to submit completed homework.

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