



# POLICY FOR HOMEWORK

## Pickhurst Academy

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**Homework Coordinator: Craig Hetherington**



## **Document Purpose**

This policy document sets out the school's aims, principles and strategies for homework. At Pickhurst we value Homework and believe that it is an essential part of a good education. There is clear evidence that it helps pupils – in particular those from disadvantaged backgrounds – reach higher standards. Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum.

## **Audience**

This policy document, having been presented to and agreed upon by the whole staff, is distributed to all members of the teaching and non-teaching staff and the curriculum committee of the Governing Body. It will also be available on the school's shared drive system.

## **The significance of Homework**

Homework is work that is set to be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It will be used to extend understanding, prepare students for new learning and reinforce understanding gained in lessons. It is therefore essential that it is completed as well as if students were in class. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

## **Aims**

There is no legal requirement for schools to provide a set amount of homework or for primary children to undertake formal homework. At Pickhurst, however, it is a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement and of enabling the school to offer some pastoral support beyond the school day.

The purpose of homework is to enable:

- Students to consolidate and reinforce skills, knowledge and understanding acquired in lessons.
- Students to extend and enhance their learning in a subject or topic.
- Students to develop independent learning skills which enable them to take responsibility for how they plan and manage their learning.
- Parents to contribute to their child's learning.
- Teachers to assess learning in the classroom and inform future planning.
- To prepare for the next stage of education.



It is important that homework forms a meaningful and coherent part of the work for particular subjects. Homework will be set regularly, and students will be encouraged to establish good homework habits.

## **Delivery**

Pupils are different and work and learn at different speeds. Teachers plan homework as part of their schemes of work for English and Maths.

Pickhurst ensures that that pupils of all ages understand what they are expected to do at home, and why, and how it will help them to improve their work in class.

- A positive attitude towards homework is part of helping pupils to achieve high standards.
- A positive attitude towards homework will help pupils when they reach secondary school.

Children are expected to complete homework on a weekly basis. The homework consists of:

- An English writing task set half termly (in homework books).
- A Maths Task set on MyMaths (online).
- 15 minutes of reading daily (recorded at least once on BoomReader).
- Times table practice on TTRS - Times Table Rockstars (online).
- Spellings posted on GoogleClassroom for the half term.

All homework will relate to the previous weeks learning and aims to consolidate what children have been exposed to in class.

Pickhurst also ensures that:

- Pupils at different ages know what resources they will need to have, for example, dictionaries, pencils or calculators and library or reference books to complete set homework.
- Pupils who do not have appropriate resources at home are offered a quiet space and appropriate resources such as lunchtime homework club where they can complete their set homework and pursue their independent learning.
- Praise and positive rewards are used to encourage regular and successful commitment to homework and that pupils who fail to make that commitment understand the possible consequences in terms of personal achievement.



## **Scheme of Work**

Homework is set virtually. Pickhurst uses the MyMaths website to set Maths tasks related to a specific topic and for a specific age and level. Pickhurst also uses Times Table Rockstars (TTRS), this is an interactive way for children to learn their times tables whilst gaining rewards and taking part in competitions. We expect reading daily at home with parents or pupils recording reading at least once a week using BoomReader. For spellings we use Vocabulary Ninja with spellings shared on Google Classroom for the half term.

## **Incentives and Monitoring**

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be praised. Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Pupils can have their Pickhurst Pamphlet signed. For exceptional pieces of homework, a letter or postcard may be sent home, the work will be shown to the Head Teacher or Deputy Head teacher and the students' work may be shown on the school website.

Students should be motivated knowing that successful homework can heavily contribute to academic targets being met.

It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that homework is set and completed according to the policy. SLT will also complete occasional checks to ensure the homework policy is being implemented effectively across the school

## **Assessment**

Teachers are expected to check that homework is completed. It is the teacher's responsibility to manage the non-completion of homework, liaising with the child as to why and the parents where necessary. Feedback will take a variety of methods including written comments from the teacher, oral communications and in some cases peer and self-assessment.

## **Special Needs and Classroom Support**

Homework for pupils with special educational needs will reflect their different needs and abilities and be related to their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Wherever possible we will ensure that all children are set the same tasks and homework. Class teachers will also ensure that homework set:

- Is differentiated for and appropriate to the individual needs of the child.
- Is varied and with a range of ways of showing progress.
- Has a clear focus and manageable timetable.



Children in Woodlands (ARP) are offered a weekly challenge via their Newsletter. Each child is given a login for MyMaths and Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) which they can access to develop skills at home, with support, throughout the half term. Some children may have tasks set following parent/teacher discussion. Children are given a reading book to take home from the BugClub series in addition to having logins to access BugClub online. Evidence of all reading activity is recorded on BoomReader.

### **Equal Opportunities**

In keeping with the school policy on Equal Opportunities the teacher will be aware of the differences and individual needs of each child with regard to the physical, emotional, behavioural and learning needs, as well as any special abilities and any needs that may arise as a result of race or gender.

### **Health and Safety**

Health and safety arrangements are in line with the school policy.

### **Parents and Carers Role in Supporting Pupils' Learning Through Homework**

Parents and carers play a vital role in their children's lasting success. At Pickhurst we ask that parents support children with their home learning by:

- Make it clear to their children that they value home learning and are willing to support the school with their approach. This includes encouragement and praise at all levels.
- Provide a suitable space and equipment so their children can concentrate and complete on their home learning; establish a Home learning routine. If this is difficult, parents might encourage pupils to attend other places where homework can be done, such as study clubs. Pickhurst recommends a little each day rather than an intense period once a week.
- Go through the Home learning before their child starts and discuss the completed work when finished.
- Make the experience pleasurable.
- Find time to work with their child or be at hand if a problem arises.
- Contact the school if they are not sure of some aspect of the Home learning or if their child is experiencing difficulties in doing it.
- Following e-safety guidelines, we ask parents/carers to ensure that computers with access to the internet are located in a family room where they can monitor their child's use of internet sites.



- Encourage pupils of all ages to read as much as an widely as possible. Each child is provided with a login for BoomReader to keep a record of their reading.

### **Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy**

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises. The leadership will monitor home learning through checking planning and work. A sample of parents and pupils will be surveyed for the effectiveness of current practice. The leadership team will review the effectiveness of this policy.