

What is homework?

We believe that homework is any school-related work or activity which children are asked to do outside lesson time either on their own or with their parents/carers.

Why is homework important?

At Gilthill we appreciate how important the links are between home and school and the need for parents/carers and teachers to work together to ensure the best education for the children. Homework helps to cement this partnership. It enables parents to help children to learn and children to see parents and teachers working together.

What is the purpose of homework?

- It gives children the opportunities to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- It helps children to exploit opportunities and resources for learning at home and in the wider community. (Learning is not just a school-based activity!)
- It encourages children to read for pleasure and to extend their knowledge of the world.
- It encourages children to develop perseverance, initiative and self-discipline through independent study.
- It helps children to develop the habit of home study and eases the transition between primary and secondary school.

Will children have time for other out of school activities?

We know that many children have hobbies, belong to clubs and engage in social activities in the evenings and that the experiences they share with others in their own time are an important feature of a broad and balanced education. They still need time to be children and to share in the joy that the freedom of childhood can bring. We would not want any of the above to be sacrificed for the sake of homework, but we believe that with a little help from parents, all can sit happily together.

How can parents/carers help?

- By helping children to manage their time so that homework does not become a chore.
- By showing that they value homework and to support the school in explaining how it helps learning.
- By providing a suitable environment for the homework to take place.
- By communicating with teachers about the progress and manageability of the homework via the homework book or folder.

- Most importantly, by encouraging and praising children for their efforts.
- The class teacher will provide and monitor homework.
- Tasks will be written in the homework book or folder.
- The children will be responsible for completing tasks ON TIME and for bringing their homework back to school (with a little help from parents!)
- There will be an opportunity for parents/carers to communicate comments about the homework in the homework folder.

How much time will the children need to spend doing homework?

The recommended time allocation for homework will vary across the school and increase as the children get older. These hours include reading:

Years 1 and 2: 1 hour each week
(daily reading and no more than 2 other tasks)
Years 3 and 4: 1½ hours each week
(reading, maths and 1 or 2 other tasks)
Years 5 and 6: 30 minutes a day
(reading, maths and up to 3 other tasks)

Tasks may range across a variety of subjects. They are usually topic-linked or centred around literacy and numeracy. Some tasks may be set to be completed over a few weeks - others will need completing within the week in which they are set.

The tasks listed below are not exhaustive but merely provide an example of the range:

Year R

Year R will bring home a selection of books to be shared with an adult. Children need to develop a love of stories and rhymes - who better to help them do this than parents/carers, grandparents etc.

From time to time the Year R and Key Stage 1 children are asked to look for objects or find out information linked with class topics to bring in to school to show to others.

Key Stage 1

1. Reading is the most important homework task for younger children. Children who regularly share books with parents/guardians are more likely to become enthusiastic readers.
2. Using numbers.
3. Learning number patterns
4. Playing simple games.
5. Simple research to support numeracy and literacy.
6. Topic-related activities.

Key Stage 2

1. Reading - still one of the most important homework tasks, whether supported by parent/carers or, if fluent readers, to read on their own.
2. Sketching, Art, model making.
3. Using numbers, playing number games, relating numbers to real life situations.
4. Year 3 to 6 learn and revise appropriate tables and spellings.
5. Researching information.
6. Preparing class talks.
7. Written assignments.
8. Year 6 will be given the opportunity to revise for the SATs.

Who will make sure that the homework policy is successful?

- The Headteacher, teachers and parents/carers will share this task.
- Parents will communicate with teachers and the Headteacher via the homework folders and parents' evenings.
- The Headteacher will discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented and how effective it is in improving children's learning. The Headteacher will be supported in this last task by curriculum co-ordinators.

How will Equal Opportunities be ensured?

Teachers will create opportunities for every child to succeed. For example children who are experiencing difficulties with elements of their school work will be given tasks appropriate to their needs.

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Gilthill Primary School



Homework Policy