

Braywick Court School



Home Learning Policy

This policy applies all pupils in the school, including in the EYFS

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Local Advisory Board:	Clare Holdway
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Braywick Court School Home Learning Policy

Introduction

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular home learning is important, since it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home tasks done in the class, and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school, and in adult life.

Home learning is categorised as any activity that pupils undertake outside of timetabled lesson time.

Rationale

At Braywick Court School we believe that any work set outside of school should have a clear impact upon pupils learning.

Home learning can benefit pupils in a variety of ways:

- Consolidation of learning and repeated practice
- Extension and enrichment of learning
- Inform parents about work going on in class
- Further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- Takes advantage of the home environment and resources
- Further research and study to inform class based projects
- Opportunity to rehearse key skills
- Foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school
- Encourages independent learning
- To extend learning in the local community eg use of local library, museums

At Braywick Court we are committed to ensuring that all pupils have a broad and balanced curriculum and we recognise that the majority of our school community engage with a range of extra-curricular activities. Our home learning is intended to be enjoyable and manageable, it should not be onerous or stressful.

Quantity of Home Learning

Our emphasis is on how homework helps your child to learn, rather than on whether it takes a certain amount of time. For example, some children will work quicker than others and get more done in less time.

To provide an indication of the approximate time expected, the government guidelines for primary school children are:

- Years 1 and 2: one hour per week
- Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
- Years 5 and 6: 25-30 minutes per day

Home Learning Expectations

Reading – Every child is expected to read every day at home, daily reading should be recorded and parents are asked to sign their child’s reading record. Daily reading at home is the single most important thing a parent can do to support their child’s learning.

Year Group	Daily Reading Time
EYFS	10 minutes
Year 1 & Year 2	15 minutes
Year 3 & Year 4	15 -20 minutes
Year 5 & Year 6	20 minutes

Spellings – From Year 1-Year 6 pupils will be given a spelling list each week. Online assignments are also set via Spelling Shed which correspond to the spelling rule being taught that week. Regular and repeated practice is proven to be the most effective way to learn spellings. Year 6 students will complete a written grammar-based task to help them revise their spelling words.

Times Tables – Learning times tables is an ongoing skill which is vitally important to securing fluency and rapid recall in maths. Throughout Key Stage 2 your child will be expected to learn and recite times tables.

Additional Home Learning Tasks – Each week your child will be set a compulsory task to complete. The focus for this task will vary depending upon what has been taught in school. The table below provides a guide for how long this task should take:

Year Group	Task length
Year 1 & Year 2	15 minutes
Year 3 & Year 4	25 minutes- (including time dedicated to the independent, inquiry-based learning task)

Year 5 & Year 6	35 minutes- (including time dedicated to the independent, inquiry-based learning task)
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Key Stage 2 Independent Inquiry-based Learning Tasks

In addition to the weekly home learning outlined above, Braywick Court School aims to develop children’s creativity, imagination, independence and resilience, to prepare our Key Stage 2 students for the transition to secondary school. Each term the children are set a selection of more open-ended, creative homework challenges for them to choose from.

In Year 3 this homework is optional. Students in Year 4 are expected to complete at least one task per fortnight and Years 5 and 6 to complete one task per week.

School Holidays

We do not set homework over the school holidays, we do however encourage daily reading for pleasure. When children return to school they will be set their next piece of homework on the first Friday after a school holiday.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **When and how is homework set?**

Homework is set on a **Friday** and is expected to be returned to school the following **Friday**.

Homework will be emailed to parents every Friday, giving clear guidance as to what is expected. Children will be given a homework book in which to collate any completed work. Homework books should be handed back into school every Friday.

What is completed in homework club?

Homework club is run by experienced staff. They will aim to complete the additional home learning task with your child as well as reading. Spellings will be completed if time allows. Key Stage 2 pupils will not be able to complete their inquiry based projects during homework club. Where homework club falls directly after a school holiday, staff will provide revision and consolidation exercises for pupils who attend homework club. In addition, they will be encouraged to access ongoing subscriptions such as TT Rockstars, Purple Mash or Spelling Shed during this session.

- **Why is my child given homework?**

Your child and their teacher work very hard to ensure that every day something new is learnt. Your child is given homework so that they can practise the new learning they have covered in school and at home and as a result make more rapid progress. It also keeps parents informed about the sort of learning your child is doing in school and what you can do to help at home.

- **What homework will my child be given?**

The homework your child is given will depend on their age and stage of development. Reading, simple mathematics and written homework is given to children of all ages. More complex writing, spelling and maths homework is given to children from year 1 upwards. The homework may be in written form such as a worksheet, completing a task online or it may involve research or even learning something for a test. The teacher may decide to set tasks online using learning websites, for children with internet access at home. All homework will have a main focus of consolidating basic skills.

- **How long should my child spend doing their homework each evening?**

Your child works very hard in school and we also appreciate that many children have after school commitments, however we strongly recommend that reading should always be a daily activity. Other pieces of homework are set in accordance with your child's age, ability and specific learning need. Your child's teacher will be able to determine what is appropriate for your child.

- **How will I know how to help my child?**

Homework is mostly self-explanatory; teachers will include an example where appropriate. All homework will be explained to your child before they bring it home so that they know what they have to do. You can help your child by arranging if possible for your child to have somewhere quiet (away from the television!) where they can do their homework. If you have any questions regarding homework you are welcome to contact your child's teacher via the school office.

- **How can I help my child when I don't know how to speak, read or write English?**

Your child's teacher will always understand if this is a problem. Homework club is always available. Many parents have successfully arranged for an older brother, sister, cousin, uncle or other relative to help. Please tell your child's class teacher if this is not possible in your case.

- **What if my child cannot do the homework?**

This should not happen as new learning is never sent home. If your child does appear to be struggling at any time please do not become cross or irritated with your child but talk to their class teacher who will be happy to help. Homework should not take a disproportionate amount of time, if it does please feedback to your child's teacher.

- **What if my child does not want to do the homework?**

Homework set is compulsory for all children. Home learning is a key part of your child's learning journey and reinforces and builds upon everything we do here at school. If your child is refusing to do the homework please talk to their class teacher who will be happy to discuss the problem with you and your child.

All children have the opportunity to join homework club which is run in school weekly by members of school staff. This club is optional but children who do not complete their homework at home will be encouraged to join as it is important that all children consolidate their basic skills in addition to their work in the classroom.

- **What if my child is ill or we are just too busy to do the homework?**

Your child's teacher will always understand when there are occasional reasons for the homework not being completed. Please remember to see your child's teacher to explain so that your child does not suffer any embarrassment. Staff will contact families to offer support if homework is routinely not completed.

Supporting Reading at Home

EYFS & Key Stage 1

- Sit with your child when they are reading to you
- Establish good routines for focused and concentrated reading time each day
- Look through the pictures and talk about what you can see before you begin reading
- Encourage your child to point at the words as they read
- Encourage your child to break up longer more difficult words into manageable chunks
- Praise your child for working out any words and ask them to read the sentence again
- Be patient, learning to read takes time, skill and confidence
- Take turns to read, modelling reading to your child
- Talk about the story with your child by asking questions about what they have read
- Encourage repetition of reading the same story more than once to build confidence
- When you have read with your child please sign the reading diary and if you wish write a comment. You could write about how well they read, new words they decoded, sounds they were unsure/confident, what your child said when you talked about the story

Key Stage 2

- Continue to engage with reading, even when your child can read fluently
- Listen to your child read
- Continue to read to your child to expose them to rich language
- Establish good routines for focused and concentrated reading time each day
- Talk to your child about the book they are reading
- Discuss new vocabulary they have read
- Share a range of reading material with your child eg newspapers, graphic novels, non-fiction, poetry
- Encourage your child to visit the local library
- Be a role model for your child, let them see you reading

Key Principles of Home Learning at Braywick Court School

For Staff:

- Home learning activities should be planned in advance, as part of the topic, to consolidate and extend learning in class
- Activities should be clearly explained; children and parents are clear where they need to go for support if needed
- If an activity extends over more than a week then the class teacher needs to make regular checks on progress, and interim work needs to be monitored
- Expectations of presentation and quality are the same for home activities as they are for school work

For Parents:

- A place for completing activities should be provided, without distractions
- Encourage and support your child. Show an interest in what they are learning
- Support the school by explaining to children that home learning is important and aids learning
- Expectations of presentation and quality are the same for home activities as they are for school work

For Pupils:

- Make the most of all the learning opportunities you are presented with
- Tackle tasks promptly and with a positive attitude
- Take pride in presentation and content
- Take responsibility for handing in completed work and making sure you have all the necessary equipment