



## **Stillness Junior School**

### **Homework Policy**

Date of Policy:	October 2021	Approved By:
Renewal Date:	October 2023	Teaching & Learning Committee

## **1 Introduction**

**1.1** Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework. There is a distinction between Homework and Home Learning where Home Learning is learning undertaken remotely when a child is unable to attend school due to school closure or self-isolation/quarantine.

## **2 Rationale for homework**

**2.1** Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

**2.2** Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

**2.3** Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time. Class teachers will monitor who is completing tasks for Times Tables Rock Stars. For the Topic project, once a child uploads their work onto Google Classroom, this may be viewed in class for verbal feedback or the teacher may leave a written comment.

## **3 Aims and objectives**

**3.1** The aims and objectives of homework are:

- ✓ to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- ✓ to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- ✓ to enable the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- ✓ to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- ✓ to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- ✓ to help children develop good work habits for the future;
- ✓ to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.

## **4 Types of homework**

**4.1** We set a variety of homework activities which may include Maths, spellings, reading and a termly project. All homework is set through Google Classroom. Many children are having instrumental tuition at school and we see regular practice on their chosen instrument as homework also.

## **5 Use of ICT**

**5.1** The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by

editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

**5.2** There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Maths homework is set from Times tables Rock Stars. It is a fun and challenging programme designed to help pupils master the timetables. All children are issued with usernames and passwords enabling them to access these materials. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

**5.3** Some of the most important educational software that we use in school can be bought by parents on a home-user licence. This ensures that children are using age-appropriate software in their work at home. The school will supply interested parents with details.

## **6 Pupils with special educational needs**

**6.1** We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

## **7 The role of parents**

**7.1** Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

**7.2.** If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

## **8 Monitoring and review**

**8.1** It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by parents through our questionnaires or at any time.