



## Nettleham CE (Aided) Junior School Homework Policy



*For all of us at Nettleham Church of England Aided Junior School the teaching, learning, attitudes and wellbeing of all our children are important. As a Christian school we believe that everyone should feel wonderful, amazing, loved, valued and unique, because God made us that way. We encourage all our children to achieve the highest possible standards and develop their skills to become lifelong learners.*

The Government insists that all schools develop a Homework Policy, encouraging parents to accept the responsibility of working with their children at home, supporting school in the development and practice of basic skills.

This review of our Homework Policy takes into account the requirements and recommendations of the Government and information collected by the Department for Education on typical levels of homework recommended for different age groups in primary schools.

### **WHY HAVE HOMEWORK?**

In looking at the reasons for homework, we identified the following positive benefits:

- It encourages and enables parents to share and become partners with the school in the education of their children;
- It can help to strengthen links between home and school and develop greater understanding;
- It provides an opportunity for parents to help their children practise and develop key basic skills such as reading, spelling, writing, tables and number bonds, and to practise them whenever possible in real life situations such as baking, shopping, playing games etc.;
- It provides for time to be spent with the child on the consolidation of these basic skills which is not available to us in school;
- The completion of homework tasks develops a sense of responsibility and encourages children to organise themselves so that tasks can be completed on time;
- Children leaving primary school will be faced with strict nightly homework routines in their secondary schools. Homework at this stage helps to prepare them for such routines. This is especially important for Year 6 children.

### **THE ROLE OF PARENTS**

It will not have escaped your notice that parents have been mentioned many times in relation to homework. This is entirely intentional. For homework at primary school level to be of any value, parents must be committed to it and involved in it. It means giving up time so that you can be directly involved in what they are doing, making it a shared activity. Sharing in homework also makes it a much more enjoyable activity.

### **HOMEWORK AND LITERACY**

Children are now reading more than ever in a much more structured way, but often in groups or as a whole class as well as individually. This makes it all the more important for children to read as individuals at home, to and with their parents or other adults, on a daily basis. Reading at home is, and will continue to be, the centrepiece of any programme of homework.

Carried out regularly, effectively and together, reading at home will improve, develop and consolidate your child's reading, giving them huge advantages. Ignored, your child will be hugely disadvantaged.

Nor must reading at home be seen as a race through scheme books. Reading at home may include the school reading book, but it must also include a wide diet of reading, including library books, favourite books from home, books from any source, magazines, in fact the written word in all its forms. All of this can be recorded in the reading record book provided by school. Reading must be shared, discussed and enjoyed in a relaxed atmosphere where quality time has been set aside.

### **WHAT CHILDREN WILL BE EXPECTED TO DO**

Termly year group newsletters give up to date information regarding homework tasks and the days set and to be handed in. We would like to emphasise at the outset that homework should be done regularly for a short period of time. It should be a shared regular routine on a daily basis. Children will not be given homework which involves extended periods of time on one night. As a guide we would not expect children in Years 3 & 4 to be spending more than 30 minutes each night. In Years 5 & 6 this might rise to 45-60 minutes. This will include reading. Anything not finished in that time should be left until the next night.

If homework set is done conscientiously and parents make the most of the time with their children, then we feel that this policy for homework will provide all the benefits outlined earlier without overburdening the children and impinging on the time young children need to play, rest and refresh themselves for the day's school ahead. Inevitably the question of time arises. We do not want to see children spending large amounts of time on onerous homework tasks. The idea is that a regular routine of a little and often should be established, which is part of the daily home/school routine. We have, therefore, stated suggested time limits as a guide.

As a school our expectation is that all children, supported by their parents, will undertake this homework commitment. Where there are problems, we will contact you and let you know that homework has not been done. We will invite you into school to discuss any problems there may be.

Please help us to help your children, giving them all the advantages we can, working together for their benefit.

Finally it would help us enormously and improve communication between home and school if parents would sign the reading record books daily and also sign and date the children's homework books.

### **WHAT IF CHILDREN FIND IT DIFFICULT TO HAND IN HOMEWORK?**

If children do not return their homework they are given a day to 'catch up'. If homework does not then come in they are given a letter which states that if the task is not handed in the next day, the child will complete the work at lunchtime with a member of the staff.

Last reviewed:

Next review due: February 2022