

Deal Parochial Church of England Primary School Homework Policy



POLICY CREATED: October 2011

POLICY AGREED BY THE GOVERNING BODY: October 2011

POLICY UPDATED: December 2012

**POLICY REVIEWED: January 2013
May 2015**

Values Statement

At Deal Parochial Primary School the curriculum is firmly rooted in its Christian foundation: enabling every child to grow spiritually and emotionally; fostering imagination and a deep sense of personal identity and self-worth; providing guidance through the loving example of Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

Our hope is that each child at Deal Parochial Primary School will develop an appetite for learning that will endure throughout their lives. To achieve this, the curriculum will need to motivate and excite children so that they engage fully in learning, cultivate positive attitudes and relationships, make good progress and fulfil their true potential – being **'the best that I can be.'**

Background documentation.

Under the last government, guidance was issued to all schools recommending they have a policy on homework. At the time, homework was common in secondary schools but practices varied at primary level.

The guidelines suggested children aged five to seven should be set an hour a week, rising to half-an-hour a night for seven- to 11-year-olds. Secondary schools were encouraged to set as much as two and-a- half hours a night for children aged 14-16.

Purpose

- Developing an effective partnership between the school, parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school, as stated in the home school agreement.
- Parents have the opportunity to support their child in their learning. Pupils' learning in school is consolidated further, leading to sustained progress.
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in English and mathematics.
- Motivate children to be independent learners and to capture their interest.
- Encouraging pupils as they get older to develop confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of Secondary school.
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Approach

Homework builds on work done in the classroom. It enables the class teacher and the parent to confirm that the child has an understanding of a subject and helps to instil and develop a sense of discipline about work at home. If a teacher sets homework there is an expectation that this will be completed by the set date.

Most homework will focus on the core subjects – English, mathematics, science, ICT and RE. Other subjects, such as history and geography, may also be set.

Homework should be provided on a consistent basis, with sufficient time allowed for the completion of the task. Children will be given clear instructions about the activity to be undertaken.

The amount of time taken on a piece of homework will vary according to the age and ability of the child.

Marking and Feedback

Teachers will 'set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired' (teachers' standards May 2012). Homework will be kept in a homework book, marked and feedback given. Online homework will be monitored.

Time allocation for homework recommended previously by the government:

- **Years 1 & 2:** 1 hour/week
- **Years 3 & 4:** 1.5 hours/week
- **Years 5 & 6:** 30 minutes/day

Throughout the school the expectation is the children will be reading daily. There will be weekly English and mathematics activities and these may be supplemented by topic-based work.

There may be additional homework set above the general tasks outlined above. These may include research, project work, and preparation for a lesson. These will link to the work done in the lesson; the children will be given clear guidance on what to do and on the deadline for the work.

Recording of Homework

Books:

All homework should be recorded neatly in the homework book and any worksheets carefully glued in. Parents are encouraged to write in the homework books to communicate with the teacher on how things have gone.

Online:

Children may be set tasks to complete online e.g. via Mathletics or DB Primary. Where children do not have the opportunity to do this at home, teachers will make provision for children to complete the task given, at school.

Creative Tasks:

Some activities will be open-ended and will necessitate children to be creative and produce models, works of art, etc. Teachers should make clear what the minimum expectations are.

Careful consideration has been given to setting homework tasks that children should be able to complete with encouragement and guidance from parents and carers.

Role of the parent

Staff recognise and respect the contributions that parents and carers make, in partnership with the school, in helping to raise pupils' levels of attainment and improve progress.

The parent is expected to support and encourage the child by giving time and a suitable environment in which homework can be done. Junior children are expected to communicate their homework task to the parent. It is hoped that this will encourage the children to develop a sense of responsibility and to develop a range of skills including those needed to learn for themselves.

Things you can do to help your child learn:

- Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.

- As a parent, you have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence – and confidence is vital to learning.
- Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "You're clever!"
- Read to, and with, your child as much as possible. The Government is encouraging parents and carers to read to children, hear them read, or encourage them to read to themselves for at least 20 minutes a day.
- Encourage children to observe and talk about their surroundings. Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.
- Make use of your local library. Look out for special events and services for children.
- Visit museums and places you think your child might find interesting. Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.

Equalities Statement

At Deal Parochial CEP School we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion, sexual orientation or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life.

At Deal Parochial CEP School, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here.

This policy has been developed by a working party consisting of staff, parents and governors.