

**Brookfields School Homework Policy**

**Philosophy**

As a school we have undertaken a full survey of all our parents / carers in order to ascertain the viewpoints of families about homework. We understand that for a number of our children the school day is very long and in the evenings the children are tired and find it difficult to engage in learning tasks. Other challenges include getting the children to undertake tasks at home that they perceive as ‘school’ tasks that should be completed in school only. However, we are also aware that a number of families are able to work on homework activities and use this as another way of seeing what their child can do in various tasks. We know that all of our families want to be partners in their child’s learning journey and this policy sets out the ways in which we can work together to achieve the very best outcomes for our pupils.

Parents/carers are provided with current IEPs termly and with information about the modules of work being studied in each subject over the term via the class website. This gives the opportunity for parents/carers to enrich the teaching and learning provided by the school by undertaking supportive visits or activities if they judge this to be appropriate to their child. There are also useful websites signposted and all pupils have home-access to the web based Education City and Espresso learning tools. Teachers also make every effort to work closely with parents/carers in the development of self-help and independence skills and in the management of behaviour where consistency between home and school is especially important. The school endeavours to provide a wide range of opportunities for families to learn more about how they can help their children through regular meetings with the class teacher, Family Learning sessions. Coffee Mornings etc.

As a school we believe that…

* All the pupils at Brookfields School are individual pupils and therefore they have different needs, which include different homework needs.
* In addition each family has their own individual set of circumstances which will influence their ability to be able to complete homework.
* Any homework that is set is in agreement with the parents/carers and there are no expectations as to formal homework having to be done.

**Principles**

* Homework will be set on an **individual** basis, in negotiation with the parents/carers.
* There is the offer of more academic homework alongside ‘home tasks’; which may not be recognised as homework in its strictest sense.
* Parents/carers will have the option at the start of the year of selecting whether or not their child receives homework.
* School and parents / carers will recognise the very wide variety of activities that can be considered to be appropriate as homework, including key elements of the school vision – independence tasks, developing social understanding, communication activities, sensory activities
* All parents are encouraged to read and engage in practical life related learning with their children to develop literacy, mathematics and other curriculum related skills.
* Activities may be sent home to share from time to time or families may be requested to support their child’s learning by sending in objects or photographs from home in connection with a specific topic.
* Teachers are always willing to give advice on ways of extending learning at home and will send specific materials if requested.
* The development of communication skills is a priority for all students. For students using specific programmes such as PECS, parents/carers may be asked to extend these techniques and strategies into the home environment. Speech and Language reports will be shared as routine but additional activities will also be shared with the home if requested. This is also the case for pupils with specific sensory needs where OT reports and strategies will be shared with families for use at home.

**Procedures**

This will be managed by…

* Individual teachers and class teams having a consultation with parents at the beginning of each year as to what they would like and can manage in their circumstances with regards to homework.
* This will then form a shared and signed agreement, which is revisited termly.
* If parents/carers are not satisfied that the agreement is being adhered to, they should first raise this with the class teacher. If difficulties persist we would like parents/carers to then speak to the Deputy Headteacher.
* Increased parental awareness of homework and ‘home tasks’ through the Newsletter and Website

**Performance /Impact**

We can monitor the impact of homework / ‘home tasks’ by:

* Home-school book
* Class Teacher’s feedback.
* Parent questionnaires
* Annual Reviews
* Parent / Carer meetings

**To be read in conjunction with the Curriculum Policy, Homework Policy and Home-School Agreement.**

**Policy Reviewed in July 2015. To be reviewed in July 2017**



 **Brookfields School Homework Request Form**

Dear Parents / Carers

As stated in our Homework Policy all parents / carers will be given the choice as to whether they would like regular more ‘formal’ homework setting. This will likely include; reading book, worksheets, spellings, set practical tasks etc. that are set appropriately to the needs of your own child.

School and parents / carers will recognise the very wide variety of activities that can be considered to be appropriate as homework, including key elements of the school vision – independence tasks, developing social understanding, communication activities, and sensory activities. All parents are encouraged to read and engage in practical life related learning with their children to develop literacy, mathematics and other curriculum related skills.

Please indicate below your preference in regards to homework tasks and return to school.

Yours Faithfully

Sara Ainsworth

(Headteacher)

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Childs Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I would like homework tasks set for my child Yes / No

I am happy to complete ‘home tasks’ that are suggested to me Yes / No

I will access the online resources Education City and Espresso Yes / No

I do not want any set homework at this time Yes / No

Parent / Carer Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_