

FINCHALE HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

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.

Completing Homework

At Finchale, we expect that most homework other than reading, will result in some form of physical product, for example a written account, a picture or photo or even a model. However, on some occasions, pupils may simply be required to learn a song, poem or times tables or to investigate something. To keep things straightforward for parents/carers, at Finchale we expect homework to be returned to school in some physical form unless otherwise indicated by the class teacher.

Some tasks that are set can be accessed online such as TT Rockstars, which helps children practise their times tables, or Reading Plus, where children can access a range of texts and answer questions to help develop their comprehension skills. If you require support to enable your child to access online homework tasks or learning from home, please contact the school office (01913865187) or email school finchale@durhamlearning.net and we will do our best to accommodate this wherever possible.

Rationale for homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education and can add much to their development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper, 'Excellence in schools', where homework was seen as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide. Children benefit greatly from the support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn and to practise skills both at home and at school. Homework can also be a good way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. At Finchale, we want children to develop as independent learners and we believe that homework can encourage them to acquire the skills needed to do so.

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 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 the school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are to:

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

Enforcing Homework

We require pupils to complete the homework that is set by school and the vast majority of our pupils do so without fail. However, to ensure that everyone is clear about our intentions, to ensure that pupils take homework seriously and to support pupils in completing their homework, those pupils not submitting homework by the required time will be given the opportunity to stay in at break times to do so. If any parent would not like their child to be given the opportunity to stay in to complete set work at break times or lunchtimes, please could you contact school in writing indicating that this is the case.

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