Kew Green Preparatory School Homework Policy

Introduction

The place and purpose of homework changes and develops as a pupil moves through the school. Homework contributes to the learning experience of the child and will instil good work habits for their future learning. Whenever possible, homework should be differentiated and personalised to the needs of the individual child. Homework should always be treated as 'of value' by teachers and set so as to augment and develop skills covered in lessons, not as standalone time-filler exercises.

Purposes of Homework

- To consolidate, extend or complete class work
- To develop independent study skills, for example revising key concepts, that will support pupils as they move on in their education
- To assess the degree of understanding of class work
- To build constructive and positive home/school partnerships
- To provide pupils with appropriate challenge to extend their learning
- To give pupils the opportunity to develop their creativity
- To encourage personal research
- To develop confidence and self-discipline needed for studying independently

Pupils are set homework that is relevant, effective and challenging. Feedback is given to pupils on their homework in accordance with the school's Assessment and Pupil Feedback Policy.

Homework Expectations

Reception:
In the Autumn Term children in Reception have reading everyday after the Parents Phonics workshop with reading books changed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Differentiated sight words are sent home to learn. Also an activity sheet identifying different ways parents could support learning at home. This sheet is not compulsory.

In the Spring and Summer term reading and sight words continue. The activity sheet is replaced with weekly differentiated phonics homework.

Year 1:
Autumn term: weekly spellings and reading every day
Spring and summer term: weekly spellings, weekly mathematics activity and reading every day.

Year 2:
Weekly spellings, mathematics and English activity; reading every day.

Year 3:
Mathematics and English are timetabled twice each per week, approximately 15 minutes for each homework task. Independently read for 15 minutes. No homework on Wednesdays.

Year 4:
Mathematics and English are timetabled twice each per week, approximately 20 minutes for each homework task. Independently read for 20 minutes. No homework on Wednesdays.

Year 5:
Mathematics and English are timetabled twice each per week, approximately 25 minutes for each homework task. Independently read for 20 minutes. No homework on Wednesdays.

Year 6:
English and mathematics every night for approximately 30 minutes each (but no homework on Wednesdays) apart from the night they have Study Skills in that subject. Reasoning homework is set each weekend. In the summer term the timetable reduces to once per week for English and mathematics and to no homework for reasoning - and instead includes French and Science once each per week. Independently read for 20 minutes.

Parents are also encouraged to regularly practise times tables with their children with the aim of all children knowing all tables by the end of Year 4. Children are provided with access to Times Tables Rockstars (Y2-6) and Numbots (Reception/Y1) and regularly Times Table themed events are planned across the year.

Project Work

It is not normal practice at KGPS for children to be set long-term 'project' style homework to be completed on their own. However, there is sometimes a time and a place for such an approach, particularly when the children are sufficiently mature to handle the research required, as long as a considerable degree of guidance, direction and support are offered by teachers. Care must be taken to ensure that parents do not end up doing the lion's share of the work, or that children are left floundering in the dark with no idea how to research or present the work. For example, upon completion of their 11+ exams the Year 6 pupils are led step-by-step through the creation of individual projects on the life and works of William Shakespeare, but much of the work is done in school under the direction of the English teachers.

Pupils' Responsibilities

- Record in the homework diary the necessary details about the homework
- Take home all books and equipment required to complete the homework
- Concentrate and persevere for the required amount of time
- To understand the importance of looking after their work
- To hand homework in punctually
- To explain to teachers promptly if homework could not be completed
- Note and act upon feedback from the teacher, verbal or written

Teachers' Responsibilities

- Set homework tasks which are relevant
- Ensure work set is reasonable in terms of time allocation
- Ensure the needs of individual children are taken into account
- Vary the type of homework set, where appropriate
- Provide feedback to pupils in accordance with the Assessment and Feedback Policy.
- Follow up with pupils (and parents of pupils if required) who repeatedly do not hand in their homework on time.

- In the Upper School, ensure that pupils write their homework in their Homework Diaries. Some children (for example those with SEND) may need pre-printed stickers with homework set to go in their diaries or additional support and time in recording themselves.

Parent's Responsibilities

- Provide a suitable and conducive learning environment
- Provide assistance during a task, if necessary, by reading aloud and questioning, but not teaching
- Encourage and promote independent work habits
- Communicate with the Class Teacher or Subject Teacher if problems arise or if additional help was necessary on the homework page or via email
- Establish an understanding that homework is an important and serious aspect of school life and the pupil's responsibilities
- Sign diary as required to confirm reading and task completion

Holiday Homework

At KGPS we believe it is important for pupils to have a well-earned rest over the holiday periods during the academic year. Therefore, pupils are encouraged to read widely and often over the holidays. Voluntary consolidation activities may be sent, if appropriate, over the summer.

Over the summer in Year 5 and over Christmas in Year 6, maths and English 11+ papers and activities are sent home to continue children's preparation for 11+. A mark scheme is provided by the teachers for parents in order that they can give immediate feedback on any activities completed. Reading and spelling homework only is sent home over the half term holidays.

Homework Diaries

In Lower School, pupils homework diary is used as a daily communication system between parents and staff. Reading comments are recorded in the diary, along with any additional comments as required. Spelling lists, logins and timetables will be stuck into diaries for children and scores from weekly tests will be shared with parents.

In Upper School, pupils will have a diary that contains a homework timetable detailing the nights on which each subject is set. The homework for each night should be recorded in the diary. If homework is regularly taking longer than the allocated time, then parents are asked to notify the school. As mentioned above, children are expected to write down the homework task each day. Class teachers and parents are asked to sign the homework diary weekly.

We expect that both work and books that are sent home to be treated with care.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school, if on paper, homework should always be taken home within a homework folder or homework book, and act as an extension or consolidation of the child's work. Every

piece of homework should be marked according to our marking and feedback policy and sent back home for the child to reflect on.

Subject leaders should also monitor and evaluate homework when carrying out work scrutinies; therefore, teachers should expect to hand them over with their exercise books and receive relevant feedback on the standard.

It should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Assessment Policy
- Marking and Feedback Policy
- Curriculum Time Allocation
- EYFS Policy

Last reviewed by: Mark Reed (Director of Studies) Sept 2025
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