

# HOMWORK POLICY

## Introduction

Primary schools in general are not normally associated with the requirement that their pupils complete large amounts of homework. At Castleside Primary School homework is given as and when required and/or requested by staff, parents and pupils, and in keeping with the Department of Education guidelines.

## Definition of Homework

Homework shall be considered as any assignment, whether written or otherwise, that a member of the teaching staff shall require a pupil to complete at a time not normally in the school day. It can include a wide range of activities and tasks which may or may not require adult support.

## Rational

Homework is widely accepted as an essential and valuable element of learning. It has long been accepted that a good partnership between home and school extends and enhances the learning opportunities of children. At Castleside we value the support of our parents in achieving a purposeful homework policy, whereby pupils, parents and teachers work together.

## The Purpose of Homework

Homework serves not only to practise and reinforce classroom skills, but to encourage learning as a lifelong process.

Homework can sometimes be regarded as a prerequisite to a child's satisfactory progress at school.

Ideally it should be regarded as an interesting, and hopefully pleasurable, means of the child furthering cognitive development.

At Key Stage 1, the main purpose of homework is to involve parents actively in children's learning – through games, spellings, number facts and reading. As children get older, the main purpose increasingly becomes providing opportunities for them to develop the skill of independent learning. Thus by Year 6 the homework programme should have a regular weekly schedule and cover a range of tasks and curriculum content – ensuring a smooth transition to secondary school.

The setting of homework and its purpose should be carefully considered, for the rigorous and regular setting of work to be done at home can be both productive and counter-productive, depending upon the reason for it.

It has the potential to:

- raise standards, by consolidating and reinforcing the skills and understanding developed at school, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- extend coverage of the curriculum, through additional research and reading
- allow more effective use of lesson time
- improve pupils study skills, confidence and motivation to learn
- extend home/school links and develop parents' level of knowledge and interest in what is taught at Castleside

By completing homework tasks at Castleside pupils will:

- develop positive attitudes to learning in different areas of the curriculum
- develop a sense of enjoyment and achievement through working independently
- raise their awareness of how information can be acquired, absorbed and used in a range of contexts
- develop their understanding of a range of concepts and skills
- achieve higher standards and cover more breadth within the various areas of the curriculum
- leave this school with skills which enable them to study independently in preparation for homework during the next phase of their education and beyond

### **Entitlement**

All pupils should be entitled to:-

- homework which is appropriate to their current work and is relevant to their individual needs
- homework which develops their independent study skills in a range of subjects
- sufficient time to complete homework tasks
- receive appropriate feedback, praise and encouragement where necessary
- have their achievements recognised and celebrated

All parents are entitled to:-

- be informed of this policy and the reasons for providing homework in its various forms
- feedback from teachers where appropriate

Teaching staff are entitled to:-

- co-operation from parents to ensure that homework is completed at home with appropriate support for pupils
- the provision of suitable resources to ensure that homework does not overburden their workload or cut across teaching time
- receive homework from pupils on time and which is well presented

### **The amount of time recommended by the Government for homework activities is as follows:**

Years 1 and 2; 1 hour a week (for reading, spelling and other literacy and numeracy work)

Years 3 and 4; 1.5 hours a week (for literacy and numeracy, and for occasional assignments in other subjects)

Years 5 and 6; 30 minutes a day (a regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum)

However the precise amount of time allocated to homework is much less important than the quality of the task. The main focus needs to be upon literacy and numeracy, with other subjects added as children move up the school.

Regular reading with children is vital (at least 10 – 20 minutes a day).

## **Broad Guidelines for the Implementation of Homework**

- Each child will be assigned homework on a regular basis.
- Reading will be paramount for all children throughout the primary school, with emphasis on sharing and reading together at Key Stage 1, moving on to listening and discussing reading books at Key Stage 2.
- The type of homework set will vary according to the **age and ability** of the **individual** child.
- No written homework should be set for the next day.

## **Planning and Marking**

Each class teacher is responsible for setting, collecting and marking homework. Not all homework will be marked in the traditional way, but it is important that pupils receive feedback. This can be done through:-

- class discussion, tests and occasionally comments on written assignments
- asking pupils to review their work in small groups
- reading diary entry by pupils, parent and occasional teacher comments
- recognising homework achievement through assemblies and /or certificates

When children continually don't hand in homework (3 pieces not handed in) a letter will be sent home to parents.

## **Role of Parents and Carers**

In general wherever possible, parents/carers should:-

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place for homework
- make it clear to children that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help them progress
- ensure that children take care in presentation
- expect deadlines to be met and check that they are
- give praise for the completion of homework

## **Additional School Support**

At Castleside we acknowledge that parents want to help, but at times can find it difficult to know which method to use. In an endeavour to alleviate some of these problems, teachers will be available to discuss methods currently used.

As children approach their final year, SATs preparation will be a key focus. Parents will be given opportunities to discuss these tests and how to help their children prepare for them.

Here at Castleside we appreciate that it is not always possible to provide a productive learning environment. In an attempt to resolve this, the school will offer a **Homework Club** for Key Stage 2 children.

## **Homework Club**

This will consist of a weekly session which will be supervised by teaching staff.

- Children will have the opportunity to complete assignments, access to the school library and computer facilities.
- Teachers will **support** learning, encouraging children to develop thinking and independent skills.
- Children will be expected to work quietly and sensibly which will facilitate a positive learning environment.
- All children will be expected to stay for the duration of the session.

## **Collaboration and Communication**

For a homework policy to be effective and ultimately help raise standards of achievement a three way partnership must exist. That is:- the school, the child and the parents/carers.

- Parents/carers and children will be invited to sign a Homework agreement.
- Children will be provided with a homework diary/record book.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Policy and guidelines will be subject to regular review and evaluation. The effectiveness of homework procedures will be monitored by class teachers, and evaluated by the Senior Management Team.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Home School Homework Agreement.**

# CASTLESIDE COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## AGREEMENT

### 1. The Parents

I/We shall try to:

- see that my child goes to School regularly, on time and properly equipped and be responsible for the collection of my child at the end of the school day (3.15 p.m.);
- read the School Brochure;
- let the School know about any concerns or problems that might affect my child's work or behaviour;
- support the School's policies and guidelines for behaviour including completing the School Classroom Behaviour Plan;
- support my child in homework and other opportunities for home learning and make full use of the School Homework Reading Diary;
- attend parents' meetings and discussions about my child's progress;
- get to know about my child's life at the school;

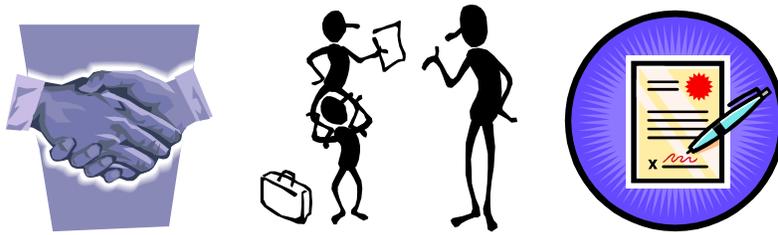
### 2. The School will try to

- contact Parents if there is a problem with attendance, punctuality or equipment;
- let Parents know about any concerns or problems that affect their child's work or behaviour;
- send home an annual Report of Achievement;
- set, mark and monitor homework;
- arrange meetings with parents during which progress will be discussed;
- keep parents informed about School activities through regular letters home, Newsletters and notices about special events and any changes to the school brochure.

**Childs Name:**.....

**Signed:**.....**(Parent)**

**Signed:**.....**(Headteacher)**



## Appendix 2

Letter to be sent home for non-completion of homework.

Letter to be sent home for not having Homework/Diary in school.

# CASTLESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Head Teacher  
Mrs A. E. Charlton

Moorland Crescent  
Castleside  
Consett  
County Durham  
DH8 9RG

Telephone/Fax 01207 508237  
Email: [castleside@durhamlearning.net](mailto:castleside@durhamlearning.net)

Dear Parents,

It has come to my notice that ..... is failing to return/complete homework which has been given.

I would be grateful if you would emphasise the need for homework to be completed to an appropriate standard and returned on the required date.

At times there may be reasons why it is difficult for homework to be completed. If your child has or is experiencing difficulties please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Class Teacher

# CASTLESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Head Teacher  
Mrs A. E. Charlton

Moorland Crescent  
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County Durham  
DH8 9RG

Telephone/Fax 01207 508237  
Email: [castleside@durhamlearning.net](mailto:castleside@durhamlearning.net)

Dear Parents,

It has come to my notice that ..... is failing to have his/her Homework and Reading Diary book in school.

This book needs to be available each day for children or teachers to record information.

If you have any problems please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Class Teacher

