

The Hills Academy

Homework Statement

Updated: January 2022

Scheduled Review Date: September 2024



Statement

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At The Hills Academy, we all appreciate the importance of strong links between home and school. It is important for us to work together to ensure that each child is able to progress fully in all areas of his/her development.

Many parents and carers are very willing to help their children at all stages of their education and thus we, as a staff, encourage pupils to extend their work at home in all areas of the curriculum. Homework is an important part of a child's education and is set regularly for all children. When children leave us to attend secondary school, their homework will become more formal.

In Key Stages 1 and 2, online homework (My Maths, Times Tables Rockstars and Spelling Shed) is allocated on a weekly basis; it is set on Friday and due to be completed by the following Friday. Fortnightly homework and weekly spellings, set by class teachers, are shared with pupils at the start of every term. We strongly advise that spellings are practised at home. The spellings allocated on homework sheets align with the spellings that children are learning within school that week to align learning at home and in school. Fortnightly homework contains maths, English, science and foundation homework tasks. We advise that the maths and English tasks are completed and handed in on TEAMS by the due date indicated on homework sheets. Maths and English homework tasks align with key targets established within school; securing a good understanding of these targets increases the likelihood of future success within English and mathematics. There will be no consequences for not completing homework. When children transition into secondary school, the amount of homework that they are expected to complete will increase and it is likely to be compulsory. Although there will be no consequences for not completing homework, we advise that children engage with homework to build upon their learning at school and to prepare them for expectations within secondary school. All homework tasks will be based on teaching that has already occurred within the classroom – its purpose is to consolidate understanding of previously delivered learning objectives.

Homework is not given during the last week of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. If your child is taking longer than the suggested length of time, or completes the work in a much shorter length of time, please speak to your child's teacher.

At Key Stage 1, the role of homework is essentially to develop a partnership with parents or carers, encouraging active involvement in their child's learning. At Key Stage 2, homework is an opportunity for children to practise skills learnt in class time and should still involve parents.

Maths homework is set using the online websites 'My Maths' and 'Times Table Rockstars', which is also used by the secondary schools we feed. Pupils' work is set under a personalised log in as well as use of the website games and activities at all levels if they log in with their initial school password.

Spelling homework is set using the online website 'Spelling Shed'. We strongly advise that spellings are practised at home. The spellings allocated on Spelling Shed align with the homework sheets and spellings that children are learning within school that week to align learning at home and in school.

Your class teacher will also assign books for your child to read on 'Big Cat E-books'. The books that are set align with children's book banding in school. These will be updated once per half term by class teachers.

Changes in the requirements to set homework

In March 2012, it was announced in the news that the secretary of state for education, Michael Gove, has removed the guidelines for homework introduced in 1998.

The decision to set homework, or whether to set any at all, is now for headteachers to decide. It follows parents' complaints that too much homework is limiting family time and opportunities for play and sport. Education officials said headteachers should be able to make decisions free from "unnecessary bureaucratic guidance". We believe the grids below represent a reasonable, age-appropriate time allocation.

| The Hills Academy | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------|
| Suggested Weekly Homework Allocation | | | |
| FS/KS1 | Subject | Time (allocated throughout the week) | Total Time |
| FS | Sound book | Timings are <i>suggestions</i> only | 10m daily |
| | Reading/learning sounds | | 10m daily |
| | Maths activities as stated on weekly blog | | 10m daily |
| Year 1 | Reading* | 50 minutes | 1 hour, 10 minutes |
| | Numeracy | 10 minutes | |
| | Spellings | 10 minutes | |
| Year 2 | Reading* | 50 minutes | 1 hour, 10 minutes |
| | Numeracy | 10 minutes | |
| | Spellings | 10 minutes | |
| | <i>Follow up work / research activities and games are suggested on 'year group Take a Closer Look' activity sheets.</i> | | |

| KS2 | Subject | Time (allocated throughout the week) | Total Time |
|---|--|---|---|
| Year 3/4 | Reading** | 3x weekly | 1.5 – 2hours (including reading 3x weekly) |
| | Online homework | 20 minutes | |
| | Times Tables | 15 minutes | |
| | Spellings | 20 minutes | |
| | Fortnightly homework tasks | 30 minutes total (15 minutes per week) | |
| Year 5/6 | Reading | 25 minutes | 1.75-2 hours |
| | Online homework | 20 minutes | |
| | Times Tables | 15 minutes | |
| | Spellings | 20 minutes | |
| | Fortnightly homework tasks | 30 minutes total (15 minutes per week) | |
| | <i>Follow up work / research activities and games are suggested on 'year group tri-fold activity sheets.</i> | | |
| <p>* Daily reading session to an adult at home.</p> <p>** Weekly reading sessions to an adult at home.</p> <p>More proficient readers daily reading to self with occasional adult supervision</p> | | | |