

# GILFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HOMEWORK POLICY

This document details the aims and practices of Gilford Primary School in relation to the homework set for pupils.

Homework is seen as valuable and necessary for the following reasons.

1. It consolidates and extends the work done in the classroom.
2. It strengthens the partnership between home and school.
3. It provides a means by which parents can monitor their children's progress.
4. It encourages self-discipline and good work habits in the child.
5. It allows parents an opportunity to share and support their child's learning.

### **Setting homework is bound by three general principles:**

1. Work to be done at home is appropriate to the age and ability of the pupil.
2. Parents must accept the responsibility of ensuring homework is properly completed in a satisfactory manner.
3. Homework is marked and monitored by the teacher in line with acceptable standard.

It is only through acceptance of those principles that homework can be perceived as a meaningful exercise.

**HOMEWORK:** some points for parents.

The quality of the child's homework rests firmly with parents. We would suggest that:

1. Your child has space (preferably on a table) to work, and peace and quiet to help concentration.
2. There are aspects of homework which must be listened to e.g. new words, reading, spellings and tables, while other tasks require checking to ensure neatness and accuracy e.g. sums, sentences etc. It is vital this is done. Parents are asked to sign written homework. This will provide some indication that pupils and parents are working in partnership.

### **OTHER POINTS TO NOTE**

- If you are dissatisfied with your child's written work have it repeated but do not tear out or cross out the original effort.
- If your child is having particular difficulties do not supply the answers, rather make a note on the page and the teacher will deal with the problem.
- If for any reason your child is unable to complete a homework because of another commitment, missing book etc. please send a written explanation to the class teacher. In such circumstances the teacher will decide the appropriate course of action.

## The Range and Quality of Homework

Homework, generally, will be set each day from Monday to Thursday. The nature and amount of work to be completed will depend on the age group of the class.

While it is difficult to be precise for each year group the following indicates what is regarded as reasonable for the average child each night.

### Foundation Stage

In **Primary 1** reading related activities will form the basis of the homework consolidating new words, writing practice and reading related written activities. Children may also be expected to complete written activities to encourage numeracy ie counting matching etc. In term 3 simple spellings and tables will commence.

In **Primary 2** children will be engaged in a nightly written activity together with reading and spellings and tables. Children will also be required to revise new words from their word bank.

### Key Stage 1

In **Primary 3** written homework will continue as well as reading and spellings and tables nightly.

In **Primary 4** in addition to the above tasks, children are expected to keep a daily extended reading record (library books).

### Key Stage 2 ( Primary 5-7)

Reading, spellings, tables and written activities will continue throughout **Primary 5, 6 and 7**

## **EXTENDED READING**

All children have access to class libraries or the school library and are encouraged to freely choose and make use of the books in school and at home. Parents are encouraged to extend their child's reading ability by providing opportunities for children to read books outside the school environment. Whilst standardised reading books are important, children must be exposed to as many varieties of reading as possible.

## **UNCOMPLETED HOMEWORK**

Children who do not complete their homework and do not supply a written explanation will be asked to complete the work at home on a weeknight or the weekend. Normal lessons during the day will not be disrupted to allow for opportunities to finish homework. Parents will be informed if children persist to fail to complete homework.