



Homework policy

Research

The debate over the value of homework in primary schools is well-supported by extensive research, highlighting both its positive and negative impacts.

Strengths:

Studies indicate that homework can reinforce learning and help students practice skills, leading to better academic performance and the development of crucial study habits. It also provides a bridge between home and school, encouraging parental involvement in their child's education.

Disadvantages:

However, research also points to potential drawbacks, such as increased stress and reduced time for other important activities like play and family interaction. Excessive homework can lead to burnout and diminish a child's natural curiosity and love for learning.

Balancing these pros and cons is essential for maximizing the benefits of homework while minimising its negative effects on young students.

Important information to consider:

1. Homework has a positive impact on average (+ 3 months), particularly with pupils in primary schools.
2. Some pupils may not have a quiet space for home learning – it is important for schools to consider how home learning can be supported (e.g. through providing homework clubs for pupils).
3. Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective. In particular, studies that included feedback on homework had higher impacts on learning.
4. It is important to make the purpose of homework clear to pupils (e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge, or to develop fluency in a particular area).

The Fairmeadows Approach

At Fairmeadows, we believe that homework should be carefully tailored to enhance the educational experience of our primary school students. Research suggests that effective homework is purposeful, manageable, and designed to reinforce

classroom learning without causing undue stress. Our approach involves assigning meaningful tasks that promote critical thinking and the application of new skills.

We prioritise quality over quantity, ensuring that homework is appropriate to the age and developmental level of our students. Additionally, we encourage open communication between teachers and parents to support student learning at home and address any challenges that may arise. By adopting these best practices, Fairmeadows aims to foster a positive and productive homework environment that contributes to the academic and personal growth of our students.

EYFS (Reception)

- Encourage 'Reading for Enjoyment' – Sharing bedtime stories and school library book with an adult.
- Phonics and common exception word recognition.
- Early number skills (Mathletics).

KS1 (Year 1+2)

- Reading twice a week or more.
- Phonics (Year 1)
- Mathletics weekly tasks based on areas covered. Competition element based on those completing work in class (stickers, team points).
- Celebration of those completing work shared on Seesaw.
- TTRS challenge (Year 2)

KS2 (Y3-Y6)

- Reading twice a week or more.
- Mathletics weekly tasks based on areas covered. Competition element based on those completing work in class (stickers, team points).
- TTRS challenge
- Celebration of those completing work shared on Seesaw.
- CGP books (Year 6)

A big emphasis on parental engagement will be made at the start of the year on Seesaw, newsletters, Facebook and our website to allow parents to understand what is being taught in class and facilitate parent-child conversations which should reinforce the importance of school work.

We will also be providing a homework club to support those parents and children who may struggle with set tasks. Parents will be invited into school on set dates to complete tasks with their child with the support of key adults.

Rewards and Sanctions:

For those children that fail to complete their homework there are no official sanctions as we understand it can be difficult with busy families and we do not want to make learning stressful, and cause distress.

However, we do promote and praise the children who do complete their homework. We offer team points, stickers, certificates, awards and photographs shared on different platforms as an incentive to take ownership of their learning.

In conclusion, Fairmeadows' approach to homework is designed to support the holistic development of our primary school students. By outlining purposeful and age-appropriate tasks, we aim to reinforce classroom learning, cultivate critical thinking, and promote responsible study habits. The importance of consistency in our homework policy cannot be overstated; it ensures that students, teachers, and parents all have clear expectations and a structured framework for supporting academic growth. Through consistent application of our homework principles, we create a stable and predictable learning environment that enhances student confidence and success. At Fairmeadows, we are committed to balancing the educational benefits of homework with the well-being of our students, fostering a lifelong love of learning.

