



GATEHOUSE SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Governors Review	Spring Term 2026
Next Review	Spring Term 2027

Introduction and aims

A good, well-managed homework programme helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills, and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their child's education.

The purpose of homework:

- To encourage pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own (independent learning).
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school.
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- To sustain the involvement of parents in the management of pupils' learning and keep them informed about the work pupils are doing in school.
- To prepare for subsequent lessons, tests or examinations.

The purpose of a homework policy:

- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- To ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- To ensure parents/guardians have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupil.
- To improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils.
- To extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement of classwork.
- To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work in partnership.
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- To encourage children to develop long-term strategies for future needs.

Setting of homework

- All homework that is set should have a clear purpose and objective and be linked to programmes of study.
- Homework time should not be used simply for finishing off classwork.
- Pupils should, wherever possible and appropriate, be returned the following school day (apart from projects and entrance examination papers which have an extended deadline).
- All homework should have a tangible end product.
- Possible tasks might involve: Investigations, writing, research, drafting, reading, revision, drawing, word processing, Atom Learning, Spelling Shed and spelling tasks.

Homework should, wherever possible and appropriate, be returned the following school day (apart from projects and entrance examination papers which have an extended deadline). During the Autumn term, 11+ entrance exam papers will be given to Year 6 pupils on a Thursday for return the following Monday; this allows parents sufficient time to go through the practice papers and mark these with their child, using the mark scheme provided.

Amount and Content of homework

As pupils move through the school, the amount of homework that pupils receive increases. Homework can be set in all subjects, but in KS2 the aim at Gatehouse is to prepare pupils as fully

as possible for their 11+ examinations and school entrance assessments, which predominantly focus upon English, mathematics, verbal and non-verbal reasoning. In KS2, pupils will also receive science and humanities homework.

Homework in EYFS is closely linked to parental involvement. In Nursery and Reception, homework activities are recorded in the children's profile books. Tasks range from 'Show and Tell', family photographs, special news, favourite breakfast and name activities.

Reception homework is slightly more structured and an additional pre-reading / reading task is set on a daily basis. Optional weekend homework is also set on a Friday and returned on a Monday. This homework piece revisits concepts covered in class during the week and is usually practical based.

YEAR GROUP	OVERALL TIME ALLOCATION PER NIGHT
Reception	10 minutes reading (daily) 15 minutes (one task set on a Friday)
Year 1	15 minutes
Year 2	20 minutes
Year 3	30 minutes
Year 4	40 minutes
Year 5	50 minutes
Year 6	1 hour

Pupils will receive a maximum of two subjects per night, plus reading in KS1 and KS2. Homework is differentiated according to the needs of the children, so that it is accessible to everyone in a class.

Parents are advised that the above-mentioned time allocation for homework should not be exceeded for the wellbeing of the children.

Completion of Homework

We encourage parents to show an interest in, and awareness of, their child's homework. Teachers set homework with the intention of pupils completing it without much parental support. Whilst we teach pupils to be responsible for the completion of homework, we also ask parents to check their child has completed the work set. We also ask parents to try and ensure that a conducive

atmosphere and space for this work is provided. As with any child's work, encouragement and appropriate rewards for completion can be motivational.

Homework concerns

If it is apparent that a pupil is overly challenged by a piece of homework, or the amount of time the child requires to complete the task, then parents are encouraged to communicate their concerns to the relevant teacher. If parents continue to be concerned about homework, despite communication and discussion with the teacher, then they are encouraged to contact the Deputy Headteacher to discuss the matter further. Homework should not be onerous or cause undue stress to a child as the wellbeing of our pupils is obviously our first priority.

Review and Assessment of Homework

Teaching assistants regularly assist in the marking of homework, but verbal feedback to parents should only be given by their teachers. Teachers should instruct their teaching assistants regarding the way that work should be marked, and what to look out for, so that they can make the teacher aware of any issues and raise any queries. Teachers should review homework with their class and/or individual pupils at an appropriate time after the date due. Homework may be used by the teacher to help ascertain gaps in a pupil's expected skills, knowledge and understanding.

REVIEW OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is intended to be a working document and will be reviewed annually by the SLT.