

# Portway Junior School

## Homework Policy

Reviewed by the School Improvement Sub-Committee

Date approved : September 2014

By : School Development Sub - Committee

Date of next review : Autumn 2018

*or when requested by a member of staff or governor.*

### INTRODUCTION

The Department for Education requires all schools to have a written homework policy that gives guidance to both teachers and parents about what is expected of them on a weekly basis. Homework is defined as 'any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents'.

The purpose of homework, based on DFE guidance, is:

- a) to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school
- b) to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly in literacy and numeracy
- c) to extend school learning through additional reading
- d) to encourage pupils as they grow older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own prior to transferring to secondary school.

This policy represents our response to these guidelines, to consolidate and clarify what we expect at Portway.

### TIMING

All homework is handed out on Thursday afternoon. Children are given spelling, numeracy and 'Talk' homework tasks. We suggest that at Key Stage 2 children should do between 15 to 30 minutes on average for each task, though at Year 6 this may increase in preparation for the KS2 SATs.

Home learning does not always require formal written "homework". It also includes learning spellings and tables, playing maths games, topic research, as well as reading regularly.

Rewards for regular completion of homework can be earned. Homework which is deemed by the class teacher to have been completed with extra effort or care can also earn team points.

## CONTENT

At Portway regular homework will include:

- Learning spellings which are issued on a Thursday and tested during the following week
- Reading on a daily basis
- Discussing Talk Homework on Thursday to stimulate ideas for writing during Wow Writing on Friday
- Completing Maths games, activities or worksheets, set on a Thursday

Occasional homework will be set in other subjects, such as:

- Completing work started in school time
- Researching projects to complement humanities or science topics

## RECORDING

- Every child will have a homework folder. All homework will be kept in this folder.
- All children will have a reading diary to record progress and to facilitate home/school communication if necessary.
- Talk Homework will usually be sent home on paper.

## PARENTAL ROLE

Parents are encouraged to help their children by:

- Practising spellings and tables for short periods several times a week
- Listening to reading regularly
- Encouraging children to read from a wide range of sources (e.g. brochures, comics, magazines, newspapers) as well as their reading books
- Providing a suitable environment for home learning
- Ensuring children spend an appropriate amount of time on these activities
- Helping and encouraging their child without doing the work for them.

*Due regard to equality issues, as stated in The Equality Act 2010, were considered when drafting this policy.*