



Peel Hall Primary School

Homework Policy

What is homework?

Homework refers to a task or group of tasks that are set by the teacher to be completed at home by the child. The main objective of homework is to increase knowledge and improve skills. It may be designed to reinforce what children have already learned, prepare them for upcoming (or complex or difficult) lessons, or to integrate their abilities by applying many different skills to a single task. Homework provides an opportunity for parents to participate in their children's education.

What are the statutory guidelines for homework?

The Department for Education state,

“Homework is part and parcel of a good education, along with high quality teaching and strong discipline. We trust head teachers to set the homework policy for their school. They know their pupils best and should be free to make these decisions without having to adhere to unnecessary bureaucratic guidance.”

Hence, there is no formal guidelines which set out how much time children should spend doing homework each night. Peel Hall uses a ‘Homework Schedule’ which lasts a half term, therefore the amount of time spent on homework each week is dependent on the child. This is done deliberately. We believe this results in improved time management and organisational skills, which are an essential skill we want to develop at Peel Hall.

What is the ‘Homework Schedule’?

Every class from Reception to Year 5 have a half termly ‘Homework schedule’. On the ‘Homework Schedule’ there are a selection of activities the children can do that support their learning and that require different amounts of time and effort. (See attached). Some activities are repeated each half term such as:

Reading to an adult;

Number bond/times table recall;

Spellings

Other activities will change depending on the curriculum being taught. Tasks set are engaging, challenging and enjoyable.

Each activity has a maximum number of raffle tickets available (Raffle tickets are in line with our behaviour policy). Children can choose which activities they do and in what order. Each activity requires different skills and knowledge. The number of raffle tickets awarded depends upon the quality and presentation of the work; therefore, the amount of raffle tickets given is the teacher's marking.

Children bring in their completed homework books by the Wednesday after a half term or end of term holiday. Then during that week raffle tickets are awarded.

Year 6

Year 6 children are given weekly English and Maths homework. The homework provided matches the child's ability and allows children to practise the skills they are learning in class. Children are given the homework on a Monday to be returned by Friday. Should they prefer, they have the option of completing homework at 'Homework Club' during lunchtime. If a child does not return their homework or homework is not completed to the best of their ability they will be required to complete/re-do their homework during lunchtime on the Friday.

Whilst Year 6 homework is not as demanding as that set by High Schools, nor are sanctions for non-completion as severe, we are attempting to prepare children for High School expectations.

How does Peel Hall support the homework process?

All 'Homework Schedules' can be downloaded from the school's website.

Feedback is requested from children and parents to evaluate the effectiveness of homework and the homework policy.

Why is this a good strategy for Peel Hall?

This strategy makes homework explicitly clear to parents. At Peel Hall we encourage children to develop independence and to take responsibility for their own learning. Within school we actively promote this ethos. Our homework policy is an extension of this. The homework set allows children to embed their learning by using and applying what we have done in class but it also requires children to develop many of the other skills such as research and self-management. We want our children to be independent learners and develop skills that teach them how to learn rather than how to follow instructions.