

HOMEWORK POLICY

September 2012

RATIONALE

We appreciate the importance of home and school links and the need for parents and teachers to work together to ensure a good education for the children. It is for this reason that we set homework in school from a fairly young age, although the homework set will vary according to the age and ability of the child. The over-riding principle is that children benefit if they have parental support in their learning.

PRINCIPLES

- To create a supportive and co-operative partnership between parents and teachers in relation to children's learning, as detailed in the Home-School Agreement
- To encourage parents to share in their children's learning
- To reinforce work covered in class or to practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge in Literacy, Numeracy and Limmudei Kodesh.
- To encourage pupils to develop perseverance, initiative and self-discipline through independent study and to give them some responsibility for their own learning
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own and to prepare them for the requirements of Secondary School
- To offer access to resources not available in school
- To extend skills in using both school and local libraries and ICT resources.

GUIDELINES

Format of homework:

Homework tasks in Secular and Limmudei Kodesh can be given in many different forms and may be differentiated to reflect the individual needs of the children in the class. It may include:

- regular reading practice – Hebrew and English
- learning spellings
- learning tables
- finding out information
- reading in preparation for lessons
- preparing oral presentations
- written assignments
- numeracy tasks
- review of pesukim in Chumash

Homework diaries

In the Infant Department, secular reading homework is recorded in the Reading Record book. Kodesh homework is recorded separately – either on sheets or in books. All children in the Junior Department will have a Homework Diary in which they must record all Secular and Limmudei Kodesh homework set. These will be checked at various times during the week by different teachers either Secular or Kodesh or sometimes both.

Parents are expected to sign the Homework Diary weekly and can also use the diary to comment on their child's homework accordingly. Teachers countersign the diaries.

GENERAL COMMENTS (Secular and Kodesh)

All children are expected to complete homework set. Any incompleting homework will be done in school during break under supervision.

If a child is absent for a long period due to illness, we would recommend that the parents and class teacher meet to agree what work should be done and what sort of help can be given.

If parents have any queries regarding their child's homework, they should consult with the Secular or Limmudei Kodesh teacher.

Time to be spent on homework in the Junior Department

In general, we anticipate that children will spend a daily maximum of:

- Year 3 20 minutes Secular and 10 minutes Kodesh
Year 3 children will be expected to do Secular homework twice or three times a week and daily kodesh.
- Year 4 30 minutes Secular and 10 minutes Kodesh
- Year 5 35 minutes Secular and 15 minutes Kodesh
- Year 6 40 minutes Secular and 20 minutes Kodesh.

NB In addition each class has a sedra homework at the weekend.

Marking and checking homework in the Juniors

Homework will be promptly marked as appropriate (please refer to the Marking and Feedback policy).

Holidays

- If children are taken out of school during term time, the school is under no obligation to set work during that period.
- Homework will not generally be set during school holidays.
- Year 6, who are preparing for their SATs, may receive holiday homework.

How can parents help with homework?

- Check that homework details are filled in clearly and regularly in the homework diary and that the homework diary is signed.
- Help children organise their time to best advantage so that things are not

all left to the last minute or even forgotten.

- Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
- Take a positive and active interest in children's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- **Help** your children with their homework, if necessary, but do not do it for them.
- Let us know if there are problems with homework that parents cannot resolve. Perhaps some children seem to be doing too much, or not enough, or are finding it too easy or too difficult. Parents should be encouraged to contact the class teacher in the first instance who will be glad to help.

SECULAR HOMEWORK

Foundation Stage (Reception) and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

The development of fluent reading skills involves a partnership between home and school and our policy is to send home a reading book to be read and enjoyed. This is done at least twice a week and comments from the teacher and parents are to be written in their Reading Record books, which accompany the child's reading book. Not only is this used to keep a record of the books read, it is also a means for the parents and teachers to comment on the child's reading. The parent should sign this book when they have heard the child read and feel free to add comments of their own or of the child. Positive comments are encouraged as this will help the child progress. The teacher/helper will also sign the record book each time the child reads. The record book is also a means of general communication between parents and the teacher.

Occasionally children will be asked to do some simple research at home related to a particular topic being covered at school. This could involve asking questions or finding information from a book or the internet.

Each week, children in Years 1 & 2 are given a spelling list. They will have a few days to learn the words and will then be given a written test on these words in school.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Homework set is generally linked to the current National Curriculum work the children are doing and should support and extend the learning that goes on in the classroom. Juniors will be set secular homework regularly, at the teachers' discretion, Literacy and Numeracy being the main focus. This will be reviewed in accordance with the Marking and Feedback Policy.

Where possible, written homework should not be given for the next day.

Children in Year 3 are expected to read for 10 minutes a night, preferably to an adult and gradually increasing, so by the time they reach Year 6, they should be reading for a minimum of 20 minutes. Some children will still need adult support throughout the Junior school when reading, to practise basic skills and to build self-confidence.

The children in the Juniors have weekly spellings to learn. They have differentiated lists and are tested weekly.

LIMMUDEI KODESH HOMEWORK

Foundation Stage (Reception) and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

It is important for children to read Hebrew fluently. We send home reading homework to consolidate the work that the children do at school.

Reception has a Hebrew reading record folder (given after Chanukah) on which comments should be written by parents and should be dated and signed by parents daily.

Years 1 & 2 receive one or two Chumash pesukim or vocabulary, depending on ability, for review every night. This homework is written in the homework book which should be signed and dated by the parents daily. In addition the children are encouraged to read from their siddur, or reading card regularly to perfect their reading skills. In Year 2 the children receive some script writing practice.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

All Junior classes are expected to do Chumash revision and preparation every night. This involves reviewing pesukim and learning weekly key vocabulary words and some grammar for regular tests. Children may also have occasional preparation for tests or project work plus Sedra homework at weekends for up to 30 minutes. Since much of this work is oral, we request that parents supervise the homework and sign the diary regularly.

Kodesh and Secular teachers to liaise with each other when setting a project as an extended homework. Children should keep to the time given for homework for each class.

OUTCOMES

We believe that homework is a preparation skill for life and in giving the children regular homework, we will be creating a supportive and co-operative partnership between parents and teachers in relation to children's learning.

Homework encourages pupils to develop perseverance, initiative and self-discipline through independent work. They will learn study skills and improve their personal organisation, time management and presentation skills. All of the above will give them a solid basis on which to continue with their Secondary School education and beyond.