



# Hazelwood Schools

## Homework Policy

Reviewed and Adopted: **Summer 2022**

Reviewed by: All Staff / LTS committee

Next Review: **Summer 2025**

Review every three years

## Intent

At Hazelwood Schools, we believe that childhood is a time for adventure and discovery. We would like our children to have time for sustained imaginative play and outdoor exercise. That said, we also recognise that homework can play a key part in developing and extending children's learning in line with our school vision of *nurturing responsible citizens to achieve education excellence by inspiring awe and wonder through a real, relevant, immersive and purposeful curriculum*. The purpose of homework at Hazelwood is to provide stimulating and worthwhile activities that reinforce the learning that is happening in the classroom as well as exciting projects that foster creativity and curiosity. Children should be able to complete activities independently but we also value the support that parents give to their children and the positive impact that working together can have on relationships.

**Our Vision and Values**

At Hazelwood, we believe in nurturing responsible citizens to achieve educational excellence by inspiring awe and wonder through a real, relevant, immersive and purposeful curriculum.

Our shared values are at the heart of all we do.

Our values are: **Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Creativity, Honesty, Ambition, Trust, Kindness, Fairness, Courage, Tolerance & Understanding and Teamwork.**

The graphic features a central banner that says "Believe and Achieve" surrounded by various icons representing the school's values: Respect (a bee), Responsibility (a red arrow), Resilience (a blue key), Creativity (a lightbulb), Honesty (a yellow smiley face), Ambition (a yellow star), Courage (a lion), Teamwork (two people), Understanding and Teamwork (a green tree), Trust (a blue handshake), Fairness (a blue scale), and Kindness (a red heart).

At Hazelwood Schools, we believe that homework should provide opportunities to:

- reinforce learning that has taken place in the classroom
- provide opportunities for parents to become more familiar with their child's learning and enjoy a shared learning experience with their child
- prepare children for the next academic stage of their school life
- develop valuable life skills and good work habits such as organisation and time management
- foster independence, confidence and resilience
- inspire creativity and curiosity outside of the classroom

In addition, homework at Hazelwood should be:

- enjoyable and accessible
- consistent across all classes in a year group as well as show consistency across the school
- pitched at the right level for the child's attainment
- manageable for busy family lifestyles

## Implementation

### Reading

At Hazelwood Schools, we prioritise our pupils developing a life-long love of reading for pleasure. To support this, it is expected that all children will read at home and/or share their reading book with their parents daily. Children will also be encouraged to read books of their choice, including online books, chapter books, comics and newspapers/magazines to broaden their love of reading.

In Reception and Year 1, children will be allocated a phonetically decodable book once a week based on teacher phonics assessment, alongside a reading for pleasure book of their choice.

From Year 2 onwards, children will be allocated home reading books based on reading and comprehension assessments in class. Once a week, children will be given the opportunity to exchange this book if they have finished it.

Reading records are given out at the beginning of every year, to every child from Reception upwards. Within these records, comments on the book that the child has read or been read to should be written. A minimum of one entry per week should be made in reading records by parents (EYFS and KS1) or children (KS2). Adults in the class will regularly check the entries in the reading records to monitor the frequency of reading at home. Children are expected to bring their book bags, reading book and reading record in every day.

## **Expected Weekly Homework – Maths and Spelling**

Expected weekly homework will be found on Google Classroom and will usually require online completion. Homework will be set on a Thursday and be expected to be completed by the following Tuesday.

### **Maths**

From Year 1, Maths homework - based on the child's level of understanding - will be set each week to support children with prior and/or upcoming learning.

### **Spelling**

In Year 1, children will be provided with a weekly phonics sheet identifying the sounds they have learnt that week and a selection of words with those sounds to practise reading and writing.

From Year 2 onwards, at the beginning of each half term, a list will go out with the half-termly spellings. Children will be tested on these spellings at the end of the half term. Each week, children will be taught explicit spelling rules in class and this will be supported by weekly homework to reinforce these rules.

## **Optional Creative Projects – Homework Grid set half-termly**

We recognise that some parents and children would like more homework than that offered above. As a school, we wish to stay true to our intent and therefore we will provide an **optional homework grid** on Google Classroom for children in Year 1 – 6, which will contain a variety of creative tasks from different subject areas including, but not limited to, the following:

- Science
- Geography
- History
- RE

The optional homework grid will allow children to pick different tasks in order to consolidate and enhance the knowledge and concepts being taught in class or prepare them for the upcoming topic. These homework tasks will vary in style from writing to cooking, from blogging to large scale craft projects, from poetry to painting. These can be completed at any point during the half term and in no particular order. Children will be encouraged to share their projects with their peers in order to celebrate their learning.

EYFS optional homework is also shared with parents via Tapestry.

## **Optional Whole School Holiday Projects**

We know that for some parents and children, the holidays can be a good opportunity to stop and recharge batteries. However, we also know that some parents and children benefit from – and enjoy – the opportunity to complete some additional homework tasks. From time to time, **optional whole school creative projects** may be set during the holidays in order to celebrate particular values, enhance learning in certain curriculum areas and encourage a culture of learning outside of the classroom.

### **Setting and Handing in of Homework**

Expected weekly homework will be set on Google Classroom every Thursday, with the optional homework grids available from the beginning of the half term. The link to the Google Classroom will be found on the Year Group Information page on the school website.

Completed weekly homework should be submitted as per the teacher's instructions by Tuesday of the following week. Projects that require bringing in to school can be brought in at any time.

If your child does not have access to a computer or device, please speak to your class teacher who will endeavour to provide a suitable alternative.

### **Acknowledgment of Homework**

All homework will be acknowledged by a member of the class team following our marking policy. Teachers may write comments on Google Classroom in order to give positive praise and encouragement to the children (and parents who have supported their child in the completion of the homework). In creative writing tasks on the optional homework grid, we both encourage children to be independent, while welcoming parental support. Therefore, due to the differing levels of parental support, we will not assess and correct writing in the same way we would in class.

### **Impact**

We believe that our approach to homework should support the development of a love of learning and is driven by child-initiated interests making them life-long learners. Homework is often creative and shows that time, thought, care and imagination has gone into its creation. We do not assess homework in the same way that we assess classroom work and so will not use any homework to form part of an assessment judgement on a child.

That said, we will continue to monitor the regularity in which Reading and weekly homework is completed and work with parents of children who are not engaging with it.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The Governing Body will monitor the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis. If necessary, making recommendations for further improvements.