**The Royal (Crown Aided) First School**

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**Homework Policy**

***“Inspired to learn”***

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| Date reviewed: | February 2016 |
| Date of next review: | February 2018  |
| To be reviewed by: | Headteacher |

This is a live policy and the Head Teacher is responsible for maintaining its accuracy. Any required amendments should be sent direct to the document owner.

**Introduction**

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support children’s learning. For example, a family member who spends time reading a story to a child before bedtime is helping with homework.

We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents/carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child’s level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child’s growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

**Aims and Objectives**

The aims and objectives of homework are;

* To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
* To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
* To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child’s learning.
* To enable aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth.
* To provide educational experiences not possible in school.
* To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice/consolidate skills taught in lessons.
* To help children develop good work habits for the future.

**Class Homework**

Each class teacher writes a newsletter for parents and carers that give details of the current homework arrangements for their particular class.

**Pupils with Special Educational Needs**

When we set homework, we ensure that all tasks are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on our list of those with special needs, we may refer to Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

**The Role of Parents/Carers**

Parents/carers have a vital role to play in their child’s education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents/carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. If parents/carers have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child’s class teacher.

**Monitoring and Review**

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to agree and monitor the school homework policy. Parents/carers may be asked to complete a questionnaire prior to an OFSTED inspection, and our Governing Body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or indeed between OFSTED inspections. Our Governing Body may, at any time, request from our Head teacher feedback on the way homework is organised in our school.