



Bexton Primary School

Homework Policy

Name of school: Bexton Primary School

Date of policy: Summer 2026

Next review date: Autumn 2029

Headteacher: Mrs Emily Armstrong

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. It encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning, including both academic and non-academic tasks that help children develop as well-rounded individuals. Bexton Primary School and Nursery values the learning experiences provided by parents and carers outside of school, and sees homework as a genuine partnership between home and school.

Homework at Bexton is a purposeful, planned part of our curriculum offer, not an optional extra. Supporting a child's homework, and returning it by the given deadline, is part of the commitment parents and carers make when they sign our Home School Agreement and it is an expectation of a Bexton education.

Aims and Objectives of Homework

- To reinforce, consolidate and practise aspects of learning taught that week — particularly Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS), reading comprehension and mental arithmetic — sometimes tailored to individual needs
- To support communication between home and school, engaging parents in what their child is learning at the moment
- To enable parents to work with the school to support their child
- To promote a shared message of high expectations from school and from home
- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- To promote life skills of independence and the organisation of time and resources, preparing children for the next stage of their education
- To extend, consolidate and reinforce learning done in school

A Balanced Approach

Although homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment, we 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 understand 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 encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities available outside of school.

What We Set, and When

Homework is set every Thursday and is due back the following Thursday, giving children a full week to complete it around family commitments and extra-curricular activities. A full breakdown of homework by year group is set out at Appendix A.

- Homework for Years 1–5 (excluding daily reading and spelling) is set using a CGP English workbook and a White Rose Maths practice book, with details of each task uploaded to the relevant year group page on the school website.
- Year 6 is the only year group set two pieces of homework a week (an English task and a maths task every week, rather than alternating). This reflects the increased expectations of independent, largely online homework that pupils will meet at secondary school and is designed to build the routines they will need for that transition.
- The White Rose Maths Practice Book and the CGP English workbook should be returned to school by the following Thursday for checking.
- No homework is set during school holidays, other than reading.
- All children are issued with a home school diary in which they record their reading. Parents and teachers are invited to add comments, using the diary as a form of home–school communication.

Access to Homework — Supporting All Families

Homework is progressive, with the amount and level of independence expected increasing as children move through the school. From Years 1–5, homework is mainly paper-based; as children approach the transition to secondary education, they are increasingly expected to work independently, using online learning platforms and educational applications. This mirrors the way homework is set and submitted at secondary school, and helps prepare children for that change.

We recognise that not every family has reliable access to a computer, tablet or the internet at home. No child should be unable to complete their homework simply because of a lack of access to technology. Where this is a barrier, the school will happily provide access to a device for a child to use, either to borrow or to use in school. Parents should speak to their child's class teacher or contact the school office to arrange this.

Responsibilities

The Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher are responsible for:

- Frequently checking the policy is compliant with statutory requirements and supports excellent practice across the school
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy

- Reviewing the policy every three years, and making appropriate updates sooner if statutory guidance changes
- Monitoring the extent to which this policy is being implemented consistently across the school
- Considering the workload of teachers when setting the policy
- Providing parents with clear information about homework, including how and when it is set, and how the school will support access to it
- Ensuring the policy is applied consistently, fairly and with reasonable regard to individual circumstances, including pupils with SEND

Assistant Heads are responsible for:

- Ensuring all staff within their key stage are aware of, and follow, the school's Homework Policy
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy on pupil outcomes
- Monitoring the impact of this policy on the workload of teachers
- Answering any queries that teaching staff have regarding this policy

Teachers are responsible for:

- Planning and setting a regular programme of homework for pupils
- Providing a clear explanation of homework tasks and ensuring that all pupils understand what they must do
- Ensuring all homework is purposeful and links directly to learning pupils have completed in school as part of the curriculum
- Setting homework that is appropriate to pupils' abilities
- Monitoring homework regularly and making sure pupils are completing it
- Checking homework and giving feedback to pupils
- Communicating with parents if there is a problem regarding homework, and identifying and reporting any pattern of non-completion promptly
- Answering any questions parents or pupils have regarding homework
- Ensuring homework takes equal opportunities into account, and that the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs are considered

Parents/Carers are responsible for:

- Understanding that engaging with homework is an expectation of a Bexton education, and forms part of the commitment made in the Home School Agreement
- Supporting and encouraging their child to complete homework
- Checking the home school diary each week and signing it
- Becoming involved in their child's homework and encouraging a positive attitude towards it
- Making sure their child completes homework to a high standard and on time
- Providing suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework, and contacting school promptly where this is not possible — for example, where a device is needed
- Discussing any issues that arise and co-operating with school to find a solution
- Keeping the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and ability to complete homework effectively

Pupils are responsible for:

- Having a positive approach towards homework
- Taking responsibility for their own learning and completing work on time
- Asking questions if they don't understand a task that has been set
- Taking pride in the presentation and content of their homework

Supporting Completion of Homework

We know that, occasionally, homework is not completed by the due date. Where this happens, our approach is graduated and supportive:

1. The class teacher reminds the child and notes the missed deadline.
2. Where this becomes a pattern, the class teacher contacts parents/carers to understand the reason. This may include difficulty accessing a task online, the volume or level of homework, wellbeing, or additional learning needs — and to agree how the school can help, for example through a loan device, adjusted tasks, or additional support.
3. Where homework remains outstanding without reasonable cause, a child may be asked to complete it under staff supervision at a suitable point in the school day — for example, during part of morning break or at the start of lunchtime. This is a well-established and proportionate approach, consistent with the Department for Education's statutory guidance on behaviour in schools, and — like other in-school consequences for incomplete work — does not require parental consent.

Wherever this happens, staff will:

- Ensure the child still has reasonable time to take part in some physical activity or play, eat, drink and use the toilet
- Take account of any special educational needs, disability, or known welfare considerations, and adjust the approach accordingly
- Communicate with parents where appropriate

This is not intended as a punishment. Our aim is simply to make sure that every child benefits from the learning that homework provides, in a way that is fair and consistently applied. Persistent or unresolved concerns will be discussed directly with parents by the class teacher or a member of the senior leadership team. As with any aspect of school life, parents who remain concerned may raise this through the school's complaints procedure.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant statutory and good practice guidance, including but not limited to:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006 (sections 90–93) — school discipline and the power to impose reasonable, proportionate consequences without parental consent
- DfE (2024) Behaviour in Schools: advice for headteachers and school staff
- Equality Act 2010 — reasonable adjustments for pupils with SEND or a disability
- DfE (2019) Ways to Reduce Workload in Your School(s)
- Ofsted School Inspection Handbook (current version)

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (current statutory guidance)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Marking and Feedback Policy
- Home School Agreement
- Curriculum Policy
- SEND Policy

Ofsted Expectations

As part of the change from the 'Quality of teaching, learning and assessment' judgement to 'The quality of education' judgement, Ofsted removed the specific grade criteria relating to the setting of homework from its School Inspection Handbook. While Ofsted does not look directly at each school's specific approach to homework, we consider it a valuable and well-evidenced tool for embedding knowledge, building independence, and gauging understanding.

Appendix A: What Homework Do We Set?

Year Group	Homework	Maximum time per evening
Reception	Daily reading Tricky word/phonics practice A weekly homework task	10 minutes 5 minutes 20 minutes
Year 1	Daily reading English task (week A /Maths task (week B) — alternating weekly	10 minutes 30 minutes x1 a week
Year 2	Daily reading Times Table Rock Stars (x2, x5, x10, x3) English task (week A)/Maths task (week B) — alternating weekly Spelling practice	10 minutes 5 minutes x3 a week 30 minutes x1 a week 5 minutes x3 a week
Year 3	Daily reading Times Table Rock Stars (recap of Year 2, plus x3, x4, x8) English task (week A)/Maths task (week B) — alternating weekly Spelling practice	15 minutes 5 minutes x3 a week 30 minutes x1 a week 5 minutes x3 a week
Year 4	Daily reading Times Table Rock Stars (recap Y3, plus all of the rest of the tables) English task (week A)/Maths task (week B) — alternating weekly Spelling practice	15 minutes 5 minutes x3 a week 30 minutes x1 a week

Year Group	Homework	Maximum time per evening
		5 minutes x3 a week
Year 5	Daily reading Times Table Rock Stars (recap of all tables) English task (week A)/Maths task (week B) — alternating weekly Spelling practice	20 minutes 5 minutes x3 a week 45 minutes x1 a week 5 minutes x3 a week
Year 6	Daily reading Times Table Rock Stars (recap of all tables) English tasks — every week Maths tasks — every week Spelling practice	20 minutes 10 minutes a week 30 minutes a week 30 minutes a week 5 minutes x3 a week

Notes:

- Passwords and log-in details for online platforms are recorded in each child's home school diary.
- Parents do not need to pay for any subscriptions — the school funds these centrally.
- A device is available on loan from the school office for any family without reliable access at home — please speak to your child's class teacher.

Appendix B: Websites to Support Learning at Home

Additional websites parents might like to use to support their child's learning:

- BBC Bitesize
- CBeebies — games and early years activities
- BBC History for Kids
- Oxford Owl for School and Home
- National Geographic Kids
- History for Kids — funny and educational poems
- Topmarks — teaching resources, worksheets, homework and revision help
- NASA Kids' Club
- TED-Ed — Lessons Worth Sharing
- Natural History Museum
- Oak National Academy Online Classroom
- CoolMath4Kids