

GREAT SANKEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



HOMework POLICY 2026-27

Version	Date	Action
1	January 2019	Reviewed and to be ratified by Governors
2	September 2021	Reviewed and updated
3	September 2022	Reviewed and updated
4	September 2023	Reviewed and updated
5	September 2024	Reviewed and updated
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'Together We Learn and Grow'

Great Sankey Primary School

At Great Sankey Primary School, we define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Great Sankey Primary we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

Why give homework?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class
- It can further stimulate a child's enthusiasm for learning
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the other children in the class
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition and subtraction sums, spellings, handwriting and reading
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School

Homework at GSP

Whilst we support the above key principles, we would not want homework to dominate home life, we accept that weekends can sometimes be very busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines, however we are happy to give advice on this if required. We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves and will therefore complete homework to a good standard. If a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, then this is discussed with the child and their parents.

Our routines and expectations

All classes give out weekly homework on a Friday. If it is a piece that needs handing in, it is expected to be returned by the following Wednesday unless stated otherwise. Details on this can be found in individual class welcome letters at the start of the academic year and on Google Classroom or the class web page. The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, or an activity already familiar to your child. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills. There should be a clear explanation from the teacher of what is expected. Each child in Reception and Key stage 1 has a homework book and / or folder and the majority of tasks are kept in there.

In KS2 homework is set on the online Learning by Questions (LbQ) platform. Tasks are completed as 'Independent Study'. These activities will be based on the skills a child needs further practice with or tasks that follow on learning that has already taken place in school that week. In LKS2 tasks alternate between English and Maths. In UKS2 an English and Maths task is set each week on LbQ.

Termly topic tasks may also be sent out near the start of a new topic and the children will be expected to spend a reasonable amount of time working on the task over the duration of a few weeks. These tasks will be shared in class and displayed. Information on weekly homework will be shared by school staff on Google Classroom pages.

Broadly speaking, these are current expectations:

Nursery – sharing books and an optional half termly parent and child topic activity to support the learning in Nursery.

Reception – reading at least three times a week and sharing books, learning key words and phonic sounds, engaging with a topic related task to be done alongside your child – there are usually three of these tasks per year.

Year 1 and 2 – reading at least three times a week and weekly Friday homework that usually alternates between Maths and English. Some weeks, topic homework will be set instead. Children working on the phonics scheme have a booklet where the sounds covered that week are highlighted so that they can be practised with parents at home. Adapted spellings are given out weekly (common exception words and spelling patterns). As children learn new letter joins, handwriting sheets may be sent to enable more practice at home.

Years 3 and 4 – reading at least three times a week, weekly times tables, spellings and a longer weekly task alternating between English and maths set on Learning by Questions (LbQ). Across the year, topic projects may also be given to support the work the children are learning about in their foundation subjects.

Years 5 and 6 – reading at least three times a week, weekly spelling list and two longer English and Maths sets on Learning by Questions (LbQ). Across the year, topic projects may also be given to support the work the children are learning about in their foundation subjects

Online Learning Platform

The children are all set up on Google Classroom which acts as their online learning platform. Teachers will post the weekly homework tasks and spelling information and other resources on the platform as well as giving any useful links to websites to support the homework where necessary. Children also have access to the online program Timetables Rockstars to further support their mathematics and Spelling Frame for English. Some pupils have access to Nessy. Logins can be found in their planner.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or blue pen.

In the few weeks prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children may be given additional revision work. It is our policy to give some homework over the holidays and half term breaks (with Christmas and summer being the exception) where appropriate, but we do understand that this may be a time when you take a family holiday and therefore homework cannot be completed.

If weekly homework is not completed in the allocated time set by the class teacher, the child will be spoken to as to the reasons why. If this is a recurring event, without explanation from the parent, the child will be asked to complete their homework task during some of their lunchtime and parents will be contacted to ask what the reasons are for non-completion.

What to do if you have concerns

If you ever feel that your child's homework is causing unnecessary stress at home or if you have any questions around it, then please reach out to your child's class teacher in the first instance and they'll be happy to work with you to find a solution.