



# FOREST BRIDGE SCHOOL

## Homework Policy

### Contents

1. Aims
2. Homework Tasks
3. Homework expectations per Cohort
4. Homework advice and feedback
5. Roles and responsibilities
6. Monitoring of this policy
7. Links with Other Policies

### 1. Aims

Forest Bridge School has high expectations and is committed to the highest achievement possible for all our pupils. Homework provides opportunities for our pupils to extend their learning in both formal and informal ways outside of school. Within this, it is recognised that appropriate and regular homework has the potential to contribute very well to pupils' learning. Homework is therefore a key consideration in teaching and learning.

Homework provides further opportunities to develop an effective partnership between home and school, whilst looking to nurture the confidence and self-discipline for pupils to take responsibility for their own learning; initially in school and when pupils move beyond school into education, training and employment. Pupils will be encouraged and reminded to communicate and share homework tasks with their family. This will allow for family feedback and shared ownership of learning.

At Forest Bridge homework is not set for all pupils as a matter of course. We recognise that most of our pupils may need support to complete their work and that homework is not appropriate for all pupils or in all family situations. Therefore, families should not be concerned if homework is not completed for these reasons. Home-school contact channels, parents' evenings and annual reviews can provide further means to discuss homework provision, personalise further and update accordingly. It is also to be noted that the precise amount of time set for homework is less important than the intrinsic value of the tasks; however, homework deadlines, where set, are encouraged to be met.

### 2. Homework Tasks

Homework tasks are likely to vary and will be personalised according to each pupil's learning style and priority needs, their differing abilities and attainment levels.

As an all-age school the content and length of homework tasks are likely to reflect the chronological phases too, from EYFS to KS4. Pupils at Forest Bridge School are also streamed into four cohorts, EYFS/KS1, Early, Intermediate and Advanced, in order to ensure social and learning needs are best met. Given the context of Forest Bridge's educational setting, specialising in supporting children with autism, it is recognised that

communication, personal and social development in addition to core skills (literacy and numeracy) will likely feature very highly in homework tasks.

Homework tasks may include, but are not limited to:

- shared reading and playing, tasks which encourage communication and interaction
- worksheets
- practice of self-help or life skills
- finding information
- drawing
- watching specific TV programs
- online research
- online learning tasks (eg. MyMaths or access to eBooks)
- tasks related to accredited schemes for KS4 pupils
- completion of related tasks and coursework related to GCSE studies
- preparation for assessments and revision for GCSE examinations

### 3. Homework expectations per Cohort

**3.1 EYFS/KS1 Cohort:** homework will be set weekly, for either a Communication activity or a practical/play activity. Written or Craft tasks will be expected to take no longer than 10 minutes and practical/play activities no longer than 20 minutes, although you are more than welcome to extend this time if you would like to.

**3.2 Early Cohort:** homework will be set weekly. This will be a themed cross-curricular activity with links to different areas of the FBS curriculum. The activity should take around 20 minutes to complete although you are more than welcome to extend this time if you would like to.

**3.3 Intermediate Cohort:** homework will be set weekly, consisting of a maximum of two homework activities. Table based or written activities will be expected to take no longer than 10 minutes and functional activities no longer than 30 minutes, although you are more than welcome to extend this time if you would like to.

**3.4 Advanced Cohort:** homework will be set weekly and will consist of a maximum of three homework activities. All set activities will last no longer than 30 minutes per activity. Activities may include academic or research task, functional activities or revision of a given topic. For functional and revision tasks you are more than welcome to extend this time if you would like to.

In addition to the homework that is formally set, we encourage parents to read with their child on a regular basis. If you would like access to e-books or reading materials please contact your child's class leads who will be able to support.

### 4. Homework advice and feedback

Where homework is set it is recommended that this should be done shortly after pupils arrive home, so that good habits develop early and homework is regarded as a priority. It is advisable that pupils should have a snack and a short time to relax before starting homework.

In the EYFS / KS 1 it is suggested that pupils have a school bag, which families are encouraged to check each evening. As pupils progress through school, upon entering KS2 or secondary, pupils might have a homework

diary or book that should be checked and signed regularly by parents, where applicable.

Written homework will be marked to highlight successes, to enable the pupil to recognise what they need to do to improve their work and inform class teachers regarding pupil progress where appropriate. Functional and practical tasks will be discussed and feedback shared to support skill development and maintenance.

## **5. Roles and responsibilities**

### **5.1 Role of the Class Teacher**

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents and carers when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work or through usual home-school communication channels
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine as agreed with parents.
- To ensure that homework, where agreed with parents, is set consistently.
- To set homework that takes equal opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise pupils who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

### **5.2 Role of Parents/Carers**

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

### **5.3 Role of the Leadership team and Governing Body**

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

## **6. Monitoring of this policy**

Forest Bridge School's Homework Policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner where appropriate, in consultation with teaching staff, governors and through feedback from families.

## **7. Links with Other Policies**

This Homework Policy is linked to:

- Curriculum Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Early Years Foundation Stage Policy