Blue Coat C.E. (Aided) Junior School

Homework Policy

Adopted: January 2025

To Review: January 2027

BLUE COAT C.E (AIDED) JUNIOR SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY 2025 - 2027

1. Rationale for Homework

Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.

At Blue Coat we feel that setting tasks in order for a child to continue their learning at home is an essential part of the good education we provide. It is not just about reinforcing learning in the classroom, although that is important. Establishing a good homework routine at a young age helps children to develop the skills, attitudes, confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, preparing them for the requirements of secondary school and giving them the skills, they will need for successful, independent lifelong learning. Also, we feel that a child's education is a partnership between home and school and by being involved in supporting, checking and talking about homework, parents have an insight into what their child is learning and the progress they are making.

2. Aims and Objectives

Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment through challenge and continued learning. 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 encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside school. Therefore, we aim to allow enough time and flexibility for a child to complete all of their homework tasks over the course of a week and ask parents to support their child in managing their time in order to do their homework around their other activities.

The aims and objectives of homework are:-

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner and provide further challenge:
- to help pupils develop the skills, attitudes, confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, preparing them for the requirements of secondary school;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.

3. Types of Homework

Typically, each child will be set spelling and maths work every Monday, which should be completed by the following Sunday. These recorded tasks are expected to take approximately 15 to 30 minutes each, depending on the age and ability of the child.

In addition, each child should spend 10 to 15 minutes, at least 5 days a week, on reading, which should include reading aloud to their parents, carers or older siblings and then talking about what they have read. Older children should be beginning to develop preferences, so it is perfectly acceptable for them to read books from home, or the library, magazines, non-fiction books or articles from the internet. It is still very important for fluent readers to talk about what they have read, so that they are able to express their opinion and discuss issues or concepts in detail. Reading aloud can help their expression and give confidence, which are important factors in developing presentation skills for later in life.

Children should also spend 5 – 10 minutes per day working on automatic recall of multiplication table facts. This practice can be done in a variety of ways.

Occasionally, teachers may ask their class to research a particular topic, or complete a task in order to prepare for a lesson. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for tests.

4. Amount of Homework

We follow the guidance provided by the Government, which suggested the following time allocations for different age groups:

- **Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week**
- **Years 5 and 6: 2.5 hours per week**

The timings are a guide. Some weeks the children may spend a little less time working and other weeks they may spend a little longer. However, children should not be spending significantly longer than the suggested time and if they are, parents are requested to stop their child and contact the teacher via the school office. We also ask parents, if their child is spending significantly less than the suggested time each week, to encourage them to read for longer, or, if they feel able to, give them one or two extra examples. We aim to ensure that all tasks are appropriate to the ability of the child.

5. The Role of Parents

Parents 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 child as they feel necessary. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's teacher. We have information available to help parents on our school website. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way it is implemented, parents should contact the headteacher.

6. Incomplete Homework Tasks

We aim to maintain a school wide commitment to quality. If a child is unable to complete their homework by Sunday, they will be given the opportunity to complete their work during Homework club at lunchtime. We understand that there will always be exceptions, where due to illness, family circumstances, or other unforeseen difficulties, a child may have problems in completing their work. In which case, parents are asked to contact the child's teacher.

7. The Atmosphere for Homework

Article 3: The best interests of the child must be a top priority.

All activities should take place when children are relaxed and not tired. Reading just before bedtime is not recommended. Homework should not be pressured or become a chore. It should be an enjoyable activity between parents and children. If your child is too tired then do not insist on homework; read the book to your child instead. Try to find a reasonably peaceful time and place for homework activities, away from the television, and give much praise and encouragement.

If parents have a concern about the quality, quantity or degree of difficulty of homework, please discuss the problem with the class teacher or head teacher. If children find an activity difficult it may be appropriate to adapt an activity, or abandon it for a while, returning to it later.

8. Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the Curriculum and Standards committee of the governing body.