

Flax Hill Junior Academy



Homework Policy

Policy Status and Review

Date:	October 2023
Review Date:	September 2024
Signed by Governor:	Marion Couchman
Date Signed:	11/10/2023

Flax Hill Junior Academy believe that education is a life-long process. A child's education does not cease when they leave our school premises, learning at home is an essential part of good education. The setting of homework is based on the government guidelines which highlight the link between homework and academic achievement. Homework is not compulsory for children to complete and return however it is recommended.

We are fully aware that there are some parents who appreciate the value of homework, whilst there are some that feel there is too much. Children lead extremely busy lives and have extracurricular commitments. Therefore, we will endeavour to set a reasonable amount of homework each week.

Benefits of completing homework:

- Develop an effective partnership between school and parents for each child's education, as children achieve more when teachers and parents work together;
- Consolidate/reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English, Maths and Reading;
- Utilise resources for learning available at home;
- Extend school learning;
- Develop confidence, independence and the self-discipline needed for personal study in preparation for secondary school and beyond;
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences.

Principles of setting homework:

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability;
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance;
- Teachers ensure that the tasks are purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills;
- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear learning objectives and motivational instructions for tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults;
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school;
- We aim for homework to be linked to previous or future learning and it will be meaningful and relevant;
- Homework will be marked by the class teacher with a comment if the work is completed on paper. If the homework is practical (for example: make a model of a volcano or make a musical instrument etc.), homework will be marked with a sticker. Homework will be sent back home (some may be displayed within the classroom);
- Parents will be informed about our aims in setting homework and about the importance this type of work plays in children's education.

Homework Activities

- Children are encouraged to read for 15 minutes every day;
- Children are encouraged to practise their times tables daily;
- A Purple Mash task will be set each week. This will range from maths, English, spelling to a foundation subject;
- As well as a Purple Mash task, children will be set a task which you will not need a device for. This is due to some households not having access to internet or devices;
- The school office will send out the homework each Friday via a form. Parents should receive this as a PDF document.

How can parents help?

- Ask children questions about what they are learning at school;
- Play word and number games to consolidate early learning of letter sounds, common vocabulary and number bonds;
- Ensure that if your child is using a computer or tablet, they are being safe on the internet. If you have any concerns or questions over how to be safe online, contact your child's class teacher;
- Spend a little time, on a regular basis, listening to your child read and discussing the books they have brought home. Encourage your child to read for 15 minutes each day;
- Test what has to be learned e.g. spellings, tables, number facts etc;
- Read what your child has written, and talk to them about their writing: Does it make sense? Is it correctly punctuated, etc.? Is writing neat and accurate? Have they used exciting words?;
- Encourage your child to check over his/her work;
- Help your child find out additional facts, e.g. by visiting the library or researching on the Internet.

We ask for your support in seeing that homework is done conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. Time is set aside each week to take a look at homework within each classroom and dojos (rewards) are given to the children who complete their homework. Try to make sure it becomes part of your child's daily routine. Encourage your child to establish a homework routine which best suits them, e.g. not when they are becoming tired, etc. For younger children little and often is best – 10-15 minutes daily is a good habit. As children become older they should be encouraged to sustain their concentration for longer periods of time, and to work with increasing independence. For example, it would be beneficial to get children into the habit of reading every evening. We appreciate this isn't always possible every day.

If a child struggles with an activity, try to avoid becoming anxious about it and approach your child's teacher as soon as you can. They will spend more time explaining the task to help you and your child.

Homework Policy

This information can be made available in a range of formats and languages, including Braille and large print. If this would be useful to you or someone you know, please contact your Directorate HR Unit.

A signed copy of this document is available from the school office.

Version Control

Version	Date Approved	Changes	Reasons for Alterations
V1	11.10.2023	Document compiled due to a change in homework processes	Accessibility