

# **Birkwood Primary School**

## **Homework Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

At Birkwood Primary School, we believe that homework plays a role in reinforcing learning, developing skills, and fostering independent study habits and home school links. This policy aims to provide clear guidance on the purpose, expectations, and implementation of homework for all stakeholders. This homework policy incorporates the latest UK government legislation, best practices, and guidelines suitable for primary educational settings.

The Birkwood Way is at the centre of our values, vision and everyday practice. We aim to produce leaders; young people who can work both in a team and independently and, crucially, opt to do the right thing. We seek to develop the whole child, harnessing and celebrating each unique talent, strength and personality. Exciting opportunities enable this both inside and outside of the classroom where children are encouraged to show 100% effort, 100% kindness and 100% respect in all they do.

Birkwood is for everyone!

#### **1.1 Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Define the role of homework in supporting learning outcomes
- Establish clear expectations for pupils, staff, parents, and the wider school community
- Ensure consistency and fairness in the setting, frequency and completion of homework

#### **1.2 Key Questions:**

- What is the purpose of homework at our school?
- How can homework support the overall learning objectives of our students?
- What are the expectations for students, staff, parents, and the wider school community regarding homework?

## **2. Homework**

### **2.1 Purpose and objective:**

Homework at Birkwood Primary School is kept to a minimum so that reading, spelling and times table learning can be prioritised. Sometimes, additional homework is sent home as an extension of class learning or as a pre-learning task. Different year groups may have differing expectations which are detailed in Section 5, including revision for tests.

## **2.2 Expectations:**

We welcome the support of families, parents and carers in ensuring that children complete the following homework each weekday evening and or at weekends:

- Reading
- Practising spellings
- Practising times tables

Time spent on homework is more effective if completed 'little and often' and in primary schools usually centres around reading, spelling and number facts. See [EEF homework](#) report.

*"Common homework activities in primary schools tend to be reading and number facts but may include more extended activities to develop enquiry skills or more directed and focused work such as revision for tests."* EEF.

## **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **3.1 Pupils at Birkwood Primary School are responsible for:**

- Reading every day at home
- Practising times tables daily as set on TT Rockstars at home
- Practising spellings daily as set on Spelling Shed at home
- Seeking help and clarification from teachers when needed at school
- Completing additional tasks as set by teachers when appropriate
- Completing revision set by teachers when appropriate

### **3.2 Staff members at Birkwood Primary School are responsible for:**

- Setting purposeful homework tasks that align with the curriculum
- Providing clear instructions and expectations for additional homework assignments
- Providing timely and constructive feedback on completed additional homework tasks

### **3.3 Parents and carers at Birkwood Primary School are responsible for:**

- Supporting and encouraging their child
- Providing a suitable environment for homework completion
- Communicating with teachers if there are concerns or issues related to homework

### **3.4 The wider school community, including governors and support staff, play a role in:**

- Supporting the implementation of the homework policy
- Providing resources and support where necessary
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the homework policy

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1 Homework at Birkwood:

- Pupils take books home for reading each evening
- Reading record to be completed by an adult in EYFS
- Reading record to be completed by an adult in KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2)
- Reading record to be completed with adult support in LKS2 (Year 3 & Year 4)
- Reading record can be completed by the child in UKS2 (Year 5 & 6)
- For advice on how long to spend reading at home, please see Section 5
- For spelling expectations refer to Birkwood Spelling Progression
- For times tables expectations refer to Birkwood Times Tables Progression
- Pupils may receive additional homework around a special event
- Pupils may receive additional homework in preparation for statutory tests

## 5. Expectations

### 5.1 How much time do we expect children to spend on homework?

Key Stage	EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Phonics Sounds	5mins daily	5mins daily	N/A	N/A
Reading	5mins daily	10mins daily	15mins daily	20mins daily
Spelling	N/A	5mins daily	5mins daily	5mins daily
Times tables / rote counting	N/A	5mins daily	5mins daily	5mins daily

### 5.2 Preparation for Y6 SATs

This will vary depending on the individual. We provide CGP SATs revision booklets for all our Year 6s, and many pupils spend additional time each day and or at weekends to maximise learning. However, there is no time recommendation for this. All content is covered through the delivery of our fully comprehensive and challenging curriculum in school.

### 5.3 Additional homework at teacher and family discretion

Occasionally, teachers may offer pupils additional opportunities to extend learning at home. Where this is the case, please refer to the table below.

Additional at teacher discretion	EYFS No more than 10mins per week	Year 1 & 2 No more than 15mins per week	Year 3 & 4 No more than 20 mins per week	Year 5 No more than 30 mins per week	Year 6 No more than 1 hour per week

## **5.4 Health and Wellbeing**

The health and wellbeing of all our pupils is paramount. Some children may wish to spend longer periods on home learning, special projects or additional tasks such as writing, which we do encourage. However, for some children, our priorities of reading, spelling and learning times tables may provide sufficient challenge on top of a long school day. If you feel your child is doing too much homework, please see the class teacher.

### **5.4 Monitoring and Feedback:**

- Teachers should provide timely and constructive feedback on homework
- Students should have the opportunity to reflect on and act upon feedback
- Parents may be informed of their child's progress and completion of homework tasks
- The homework policy be reviewed and evaluated yearly

## **6. Related Procedures**

### **Equality:**

Birkwood Primary School will promote equal opportunity and will not tolerate inequality in any area of the school's life or work. All will be treated equally and given equal access to the curriculum and life of the school. All will have equal opportunity to benefit from all that we offer. Our intention is to develop an ethos in which all will thrive. Diversity and differences will be valued and respected by all and they will contribute to the richness of our school life and learning.

- Pupils who require additional support or accommodations for completing homework tasks will be identified and supported by the school's SENCO team
- Homework Resources: Birkwood will endeavour to provide resources and support to ensure all pupils have access to the necessary materials for completing homework tasks
- A homework club runs weekly to provide support for Year 1 to Year 6 pupils

## **7. Review and Evaluation**

### **7.1 Review:**

- The effectiveness of the homework policy will be regularly reviewed and evaluated
- Feedback from students, staff, parents, and the wider school community will be considered in the review process
- Adjustments to the policy will be made based on the outcomes of the review

### **7.2 Approval:**

- This policy will be reviewed every year by the headteacher and chair of governors
  - At every review, the policy will be shared with the full governing board
  - At every review, the policy will be shared with teaching staff
- Approved by:

Paul Sabin (Chair of Governors)

*P. Sabin*

Date: 01.07.24

Daniel Wood (Headteacher)

*D. Wood*

Date: 01.07.24

Next review due by: 01.07.25

## **8. Conclusion**

At Birkwood Primary School, we are committed to fostering a culture of independent learning and academic excellence. By working together with pupils, staff, parents and carers, and the wider school community, we aim to ensure that homework is a valuable and effective tool in supporting the educational and personal development of all our pupils whilst ensuring content is manageable and promotes a healthy attitude to learning.