



Homework Policy

The Beacon Homework Policy

Introduction

At The Beacon we believe that learning at home is a useful part of our pupils' education: it is used to consolidate prior learning. We also believe that homework should be a non-stressful and rewarding experience with every attempt made to collaborate with parents and carers to ensure tasks are appropriate, feasible and enjoyable.

We are aware that many pupils face a long journey to and from school and it may not be appropriate to expect them to complete work at home. For some pupils and their parents homework will simply involve consistency with school in relation to personal care routines. Therefore, all parents and carers will be made aware of the homework policy and asked to agree to support the scheme. However, the completion of homework is optional; should homework not be completed there will be no consequences.

Aims

- To enhance partnerships with parents and carers
- To support and extend pupils' learning outside of lessons
- To provide opportunities to develop skills for independent learning and life skills
- To provide opportunities for conventional homework tasks and to develop more personal and social routines
- To develop self-confidence and self-discipline skills

What is homework?

Homework can take many different forms and may include:

- Reading together
- Shared focus goals
- Responding to symbols at home
- Washing, dressing, choosing clothes
- Handing in home school book
- The discussion of behaviour strategies
- School based ICT programmes e.g. Purple Mash, Dynamo, Google Apps and Mathletics
- Topic based work
- Travel training
- Work related to coursework and accreditations for examples BTEC, Entry Level and GCSE qualifications

For some pupils homework will provide the opportunity to develop skills for independent learning, for others it is the involvement with parents or carers in joint activities, however brief, which is most valuable to promoting learning. The amount of homework set will vary according to needs of the pupil.

Early Years

In Early Years we work as closely as possible with parents and carers to help them use the skills learnt at school in the home setting and vice versa. Specific ways to encourage the generalisation of new skills is always discussed.

Homework can take a variety of forms it could be regularly taking home a story book, practising, writing /drawing skills, developing self -help skills or topic based activities e.g. bringing an object to class.

Key Stages 1 and 2

In Primary the focus of homework will vary according to need. Therefore, some emphasis may be on literacy and numeracy skills. For others it may be playing games, using school based ICT programmes, taking part in social routines or finding an object for a class topic.

- Reading and spellings linked to our phonics programme Letters and Sounds will be sent home weekly. On occasion class teachers will set homework relating to a specific subject or topic.

Key Stages 3 and 4

Homework set in Secondary classes across the Federation varies according to the individual students. This may include the use of school based ICT Programmes at home, development of personal hygiene skills, the use of visual cues to encourage communication and interaction, reading, spellings or completing a homework task related to a specific qualification.

- Key Stage 3 reading and spellings linked to our phonics programme Letters and Sounds will be sent home weekly. On occasion class teachers will set homework relating to a specific subject or topic.
- In Key Stage 4 homework will be linked to prior learning, skill building and the qualifications being studied, this will be set when relevant.

Key Stage 5

In Sixth Form students are encourage to develop their independence and self –help skills and also develop good work habits in preparation for their future life choices, i.e. integration into work or college placements, etc. Where possible students are encouraged to become more independent individuals. Homework is often life skills based e.g. catching a bus with a parent or carer, using a local facility with a friend, parent or carer, helping in the home, going shopping, choosing clothes to wear for the day or hanging up a coat. Students are encouraged to extend their learning through individual study at home.

- In Key Stage 5 homework will be linked to prior learning, skill building and the qualifications being studied, this will be set when relevant.

Parental support of Homework

The amount of homework set will vary according to the needs of the individual and family circumstances. Varying levels of support may be required to support the family in facilitating the learning process. Training can be offered to support parents and carers with their child's homework; this may include the use of symbols and school based ICT programmes or discussions around behaviour strategies for individual pupils.

Parents are expected to be supportive but should not complete homework for their child. Parents are actively encouraged to discuss homework with the school.

The Beacon Equality Statement

The Beacon Folkestone is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity to all pupils, staff and visitors. Our Core Values are at the forefront of everything we do and we ensure all at The Beacon are treated equally regardless of age, disability, race, colour, ethnicity, nationality, religious belief, gender, gender identity, transgender, sexual orientation or marital status.

The Beacon strives to be an all-inclusive environment and is always looking for opportunities to broaden the knowledge and experiences of everyone who is involved with both our services, and the staff and clients of those using the services of our multi-agency hub.

Our aims for this year are to ensure there are more equal opportunities for pupils, staff, their families and the wider community, regardless of their disability and this forms an integral part of our School Improvement Plan.

The aims for 2016-2019 are to build and improve schemes to help bring down barriers for disabled children and young people and to broaden the experience of life both inside and outside the school community for all staff & pupils.

UPDATE SCHEDULE

Version	Reviewed	Reason for Update	Next review date	Governor agreement
1	Feb 2017	Review/transfer	Feb 2019	N/A