



# SILCOATES

Independent education for boys and girls aged 3-18

## Homework Policy (Junior School)

Homework is any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. It is not explicitly only work done at home, as homework may be undertaken within school, during the After School provision in Years 3 to 6.

The purpose of homework is:

- To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- To extend individual learning, for example through additional reading.
- To enable pupils to devote time to particular demands, such as Brain Builders or other project work.
- To support the home/school relationship.

### Timetables

The homework timetable is published in September, based on the academic timetable. It does form part of the overall curriculum, therefore is expected to be completed by all pupils when set.

The time spent on homework is commensurate with the age of the pupil, and the following are the expected guidelines:

Year 1	Daily Reading 1 x Homework Tasks each week (approximately 10-15minutes) Picture News
Year 2	Daily Reading 2 x Homework Tasks each week (approximately 10-15minutes) Picture News
Year 3	Daily Reading (15mins – 5 x per week) Daily 'Times Table Rockstars' Activity 3 x Homework Tasks each week (approximately 20minutes) Picture News
Year 4	Daily Reading (15mins – 5 x per week) Daily 'Times Table Rockstars' Activity 3 x Homework Tasks each week (approximately 25minutes)

## Picture News

Year 5	Daily Reading (15-20 mins – 5 x per week) Daily 'Times Table Rockstars' Activity 3 x Homework Tasks each week (approximately 30minutes) Picture News
Year 6	Daily Reading (20mins – 5 x per week) Daily 'Times Table Rockstars' Activity 3 x Homework Tasks each week (approximately 30minutes) Picture News

Teachers set homework and children will normally be allowed two nights to complete unless the teacher specifies a different time.

Homework should be titled, dated and completed to the best efforts of the pupil following the requirements of the task set. Teachers assess the work and keep a record of all achievements.

If, for any reason, a pupil is unable to do their homework, then a note or an e-mail from a parent should be sent to the teacher. If it is due to difficulty with the work, then the pupil must try to seek help from the teacher and complete the homework once guidance has been given. If a pupil is absent, then they may sometimes be expected to catch up and complete the work, but this will be at the discretion of each teacher.

From Year 1 to Year 6, children complete a piece of 'Brain Builders' homework each term – in some year groups this may be two a term; this is down to the discretion of the teacher, depending upon 'topic' requirements etc. This takes the form of a more open-ended question which can be answered in whichever way the children decide. The questions can be derived from any area of the curriculum being taught. For example, in responding to the homework question 'How can we promote excellent manners in our school?' children could: write a poem, draw or paint a picture, create a quiz, record a short video, write a story, interview people or even write a song.

The idea is that children will respond creatively based on their own ideas for the question.

This homework will then be viewed in a specific time to be known as a 'Brain Builders Gallery' lesson. In this session, children put their completed homework on their desks and the class walk around the room as if at an art gallery. They look at each piece of homework and identify good ideas and excellent effort. The teacher then leads the class in a celebration and analysis of which pieces of homework were successful and the reasons why.

Children understand that this should be their own work and should show what they know and understand about a topic. They know that copying and pasting text from other sources is not accepted.

*Other examples of Brain Builder Questions:*

Science: What is a food chain? Which animals could you find in Wakefield?

Geography: What is France like? How would you improve your local park?

History: Who was Henry VIII? Why do people remember Guy Fawkes?

## **Home Reading**

We want all pupils to read a little every night, and to record the pages they have read in their reading record book. Reading at home each night is really important for every year group.

Parents can help at every stage of reading, from children who are just beginning to read at a joining age to children who are reading further up the School. Your child may bring home a variety of books, including storybooks, non-fiction books, poetry books and plays. Silcoates currently subscribes to Bug Club so pupils may also find they have been set books and activities to read online. We try to make sure that all our books are of a good quality, reflect our diverse society, and have appropriate content. We ask all children to try and make sure that the books remain in good condition.

Please make sure that books are treated well at home and that your child brings the books back to school each day.

(See Information Handbook for parents for further information)

### **Types of Homework**

The nature of the homework will naturally vary between subjects and year groups. However, over the course of a year, it is intended that a wide range of homework tasks will be set for pupils to complete. These might include:

- Literacy and Numeracy assignments
- Topic assignments
- Preparation for an oral presentation
- Reading in preparation for a lesson
- Finding out information or researching a project

### **Responsibilities**

#### **Class & Subject Teachers**

- The teacher is responsible for setting appropriate homework in a clear and understandable fashion and ensuring that this is then entered on Firefly (Year 3-6) or given as a note to parents (Year 1 and 2).
- Marking homework tasks forms an integral part of teacher assessment and so the teacher will aim to mark homework as soon as possible for inclusion in that topic of work and then try to give back to the pupil, whilst the exercise is fresh in the pupils' minds.

#### **Pupils**

- Pupils are responsible for ensuring that deadlines are kept.
- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary, pupils should see the teacher concerned for help.

#### **Parents**

- Parents should support pupils with their homework but accept that their role will become less important as their child becomes more responsible and independent.
- Parents should try and provide a reasonable place where their child can work or encourage them to make use of the After School facilities.
- Parents should encourage pupils to meet homework deadlines and, if they feel that insufficient or too much homework is being set, they should contact the Teacher, who will investigate the situation.

<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Mrs Moss – Head of Junior School		
<b>Date of last review:</b>	June 2021	<b>Date of next review:</b>	June 2022