

Homework Guide for Parents



There are widely differing views among parents and pupils about homework and its value in supporting learning. Some like a lot of homework while others do not. At BSL we believe that homework can make an important contribution to children's learning, and for this reason all children in our school are given homework. It must be noted that all children from Year 1 will have a significant amount of Spanish homework in order that their attainment can be equal to, or above that of children attending Spanish schools.

We have tried to achieve a "best fit" taking into account the views and needs of parents and pupils, and have designed our homework policy to make it as easy to manage as possible both at home and at school. We hope that you will find the following information helpful.

What is the purpose of homework at BSL?

There are several purposes for homework, which are:

- To practise, consolidate and extend class work
- To prepare for future class work
- To encourage creativity and initiative
- To build self-confidence and independence
- To enable children to develop planning and time management skills
- To encourage closer links between home and school
- To give children the opportunity to share work with their parents/family
- To prepare older children for the demands of external examinations.

How does this work?

As children's needs alter according to their age, so does the type and amount of homework they receive. The Homework Programme in this leaflet gives an overview of what is expected in each age range.

How do children and parents know what the homework is?

In the Foundation Stage the work required at home will be described in letters to parents or at a meeting for them.

In Key Stage 1, each child has a phonic/spelling sheet or book and may bring home worksheets for Literacy or Mathematics. In Spanish subjects pupils will be asked to copy a small section for homework this helps pupils develop their reading and writing skills.

In Key Stage 2, every child has a homework book, which the teacher and parents sign.

In Key Stage 3 and 4 each child has a homework diary which should be completed daily. This should be signed by the form tutor and parents weekly.

What tasks might be set?

Homework will always include reading, weekly spelling tasks (Key Stage 1) and mental maths (Key Stage 2). In all Key Stages tasks related to class-based work could include:

- Consolidation of skills already taught
- Investigations and projects/presentations
- Problem solving
- Oral work, e.g., talking about a class topic
- Preparation for new topics
- Research extension
- Collecting items
- Exam preparation
- Completion of class work
- Written exercises

These could apply to any subject.

What happens if my child has any problems with the homework?

In all Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 homework books, there is a space for parent's comments. If your child has problems with homework, it is important to let the class teacher know, by writing a comment in the book. Please do not wait until the last minute if there is a problem. In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, please see the teacher if there are any problems.

How can we make sure that the homework is not too easy or too hard?

We recognise that children within the same class may vary in ability, and we want their homework to be pitched appropriately. While some homework tasks can be successfully completed by all children, such as researching a topic, others will be varied according to ability.

Some children with individual needs may receive homework to support these. Please feel free to discuss this with the class teacher by appointment.

What happens if my child is spending more time on homework than the recommended time?

If this is because the homework is too difficult, you should let the class teacher know so that the level can be modified if necessary. We do not intend that children should be spending any more than the recommended time on homework. However, if it is because your child is enjoying the work and you feel that it is not a problem, this is fine.

What happens if homework is not done?

The school expects homework to be completed regularly. If it is not, we usually ask children to catch up at home, or in their own time during the school day. Occasionally you may need to let the class teacher know if your child has not been able to complete the work for family reasons, e.g., sickness. If a teacher's records show that your child has not completed up to three pieces of homework, you will be informed.

How is homework marked?

This depends on the kind of homework set. If work is written it will be marked before the next homework is set. If work is more open-ended, such as preparation for a presentation, feedback will be given during class discussion and will not necessarily be written in books. If you ever have any queries about this, please ask the class teacher.

What standard is expected of homework?

The same standard is expected as work done at school. This includes presentation.

How many days do children have to get their homework finished?

This depends on the age of the child and what is included in their homework programme. Most of the time children will have a few days to complete work.

How can parents give feedback on how their children are doing with homework?

It is essential that the school has feedback about homework. Parents are encouraged to comment regularly in the homework/contact books and to talk to the class teacher when necessary.

Are children expected to do homework in the school holidays?

In Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and 2 this may vary, but there is always the requirement to read in English. In Key Stages 3 and 4 pupils will usually have some homework to do during school holidays. If the occasion arises where there is none set, then the pupils should be revising and reading English books.