

A Summary of Comments taken from responses

Pupils	Parents	Staff
We should sometimes have maths, reading, topic or spelling.	I feel that children should have structured homework every week.	Not all pupils completed traditional homework, especially reading, so its not a fair playing field.
Practise writing or joined up writing	I think homework should be optional, if I felt my child needed it, it would be there to do.	Few pupils recognised the advantages of doing learning at home when less structured so it wasn't done.
A list of suggestions to be covered at home	If evidence has shown it is not beneficial, why place stress on children. Perhaps encourage them to go outside.	Evidence suggests that home learning tasks have little impact and short bursts of practice is more effective.
I think we need to do spelling and maths	I like a worksheet or tasks to do at home, my child is more willing to do it if the tasks come from the teacher	Sometimes tasks have been heavily supported by parents so it is difficult to tell what the child is able to do and what they need further support with.
I feel that school clubs are part of my education and are more important that homework.	Sometimes I am concerned I am teaching her a different way.	Extra-curricular clubs are beneficial to children's development.
I think it should be preview so that we can learn in our own way and own time.	Children should be encouraged to read more but I don't agree with other types of homework, they cover enough in class.	Information about what children are learning each term is in the class newsletters.
I think preview is good but outdoor activities are better	I agree with the "no homework" approach but I would like to be more informed about what my child is learning in school.	If children read ahead in books they have home, then it is difficult to have a reading lesson about prediction as a skill.
English, Maths and Topic – the old homework is more like homework	Less structured homework has caused less stress at home but I feel I don't know what my child is struggling with or doing well at.	As we have all being trying different approaches, there has been some confusion. We need a standardised approach across the school.
I think homework should be done at a club	My child has benefited from a more fluid way to learn.	
I think homework should be unfinished work	I would like to know what they are covering.	
Research a topic but don't write it down	Reading and Spelling are very important but half an hours homework can turn into two hours of tears.	
Practice timetables at home	I do not agree with set homework, it is too much pressure and other activities such as scouts are just as important.	
I think homework should be creative	I think it should be fun, online based learning	
	Home Learning has become fun, we look forward to the preview notes.	
	I think a cross between the old homework style and the current homework style would be good.	

Results of Home-Learning Consultation Session 2017-2018

Context

The decision to look at how homework could be improved came naturally out of informal discussions with parents and teachers. Inservice training for teachers in November by James Nottingham underlined this by discussing the research evidence for homework. In November, we decided to trial Preview, where children explore learning in advance. Each teacher was encouraged to try different approaches so that we could see what was most effective. In March we held a wider consultation with parents, pupils and staff to gauge opinion. Here are the conclusions of the study.

Conclusions

- Parents would like to know more about their children's progress. Since even traditional homework didn't give a great deal of information about this, we need to revisit how to make our reporting more fluid.
- Many parents and children felt there should be some sort of focus on spelling, maths and reading.
- A number of parents appreciated finding out about learning in advance so the children could be prepared.
- A number of parents would prefer more structure but many parents prefer a more flexible, child led approach.
- Parents and pupils value time to be outside or attend clubs and activities.
- As a school community, whatever is decided about home-learning, we will need to emphasise to children the value of learning all the time and practising at home. They will be at an advantage if they practise at home.
- There is a wide variety of opinion about home learning.

A summary of the comments given in consultation are on the back of this sheet

Next Steps

Given the wide variety of opinions regarding homework and the growing evidence basis, it will be difficult to find a way forward which suits everyone.

We have devised a **policy for Term 4 session 2017-2018** which focuses on spelling, numeracy and reading. It will be consistent across all classes and there is an expectation that children will do the activities suggested. However, it will be more flexible and more informal so that it may adapt to suit every child.

The focus will still be "preview" so learning will be shared in advance and children who do prepare will find they have an advantage in school which will lead to deeper learning.

However, it is very likely that the impact of this policy will need to be reviewed and tweaked ready for next academic session.