



Eskdale School

A place of belonging, a place of inspiration

Home Learning Policy

Eskdale School aims:

To develop as a vibrant, dynamic community committed to the principles of "Every Child Matters" so that all of our students

- are safe and healthy
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- experience success so that they are equipped to make their way in the world of work.

Document Status

Date of Policy Adoption by Governing Body: January 2006

Reviewed

September 2019

Next Review

September 2022

Signed (Chair of Governors)

Eskdale School – Home Learning Policy

A. Purpose of homework

All Home Learning must have a clear educational purpose which helps pupils to make progress. Pupils should never be given Home Learning activities / tasks just for the sake of it.

Home Learning should fulfil at least one of the following criteria:

- Preparation for the learning that will take place in the next lesson
- Research in preparation for the next lesson
- Applying the learning that has taken place in the lesson
- Extending the learning that has taken place in the lesson
- Consolidating / reinforcing the learning that has taken place in the lesson
- Enabling pupils to identify gaps in their knowledge / understanding, which can then be addressed in the next lesson
- Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their own learning

Home Learning should be set bearing the 5Rs in mind. Does the task set encourage / enable pupils to develop these skills?

- Resourceful Learner
- Reflective Learner
- Responsible Learner
- Reasoning Learner
- Resilient Learner

B. Consultation

This policy has been developed by taking into account the views of parents, pupils (through the school council) and teaching staff. It aims to balance the wishes expressed by some parents for their children to have regular Home Learning tasks with the concerns raised by other parents about the amount of Home Learning their children are expected to do. The policy also aims to balance the need for pupils to continue their learning at home with the valid concerns raised by pupils about how Home Learning can negatively impinge on the limited free time that many of them have. Many of our pupils have long journeys to and from school. Lots of them are also involved in activities outside of school, which are also educational, but also time-consuming. There is general agreement that limited amounts of Home Learning are clearly beneficial, but the tasks set need to be manageable and not over-whelming. Eskdale School prides itself on knowing its pupils, understanding their concerns and putting their well-being at the centre of everything we do. This approach to education has also informed our approach to Home Learning.

C. Guidance on the setting of Home Learning

- All Home Learning must have a clear purpose and clearly defined success criteria. It is essential that both pupils and parents can easily work out what is expected from any particular piece of Home Learning.
- Home Learning must be differentiated and set at a level which pupils can complete on their own; without the need to ask a parent for help or support. The school does, however, encourage all parents to participate in their child's home learning and we do encourage pupils to share their learning with their parents.
- Home Learning tasks should not take a pupil longer than 30 minutes to complete for Key Stage 3 and 1 hour for Key Stage 4.
- Parents who are concerned that their child is spending more than this amount of time on Home Learning, should feel confident that they can tell their child that they have done

enough and share their concern with the teacher who has set the task using the School Planner.

- Pupils may be expected to complete very short, simple tasks (no longer than 10 minutes) for the next day, but should normally be given at least two days to complete tasks. Pupils should have a week to complete longer, more complex tasks.
- All Home Learning should be recorded by pupils in their School Planners. Teachers should ensure that all pupils have thoroughly understood the task that has been set and that it has been recorded in a way which both pupils and parents can clearly see what is expected. Home Learning does not have to (and should not always) entail providing a written response to a task. Home Learning should not automatically become a Literacy / English task. Teachers should be creative in setting Home Learning tasks (e.g. the use of interactive games on learning websites; thinking tasks; reading; watching a short film, playing a game, doing something active etc.)
- If pupils are expected to hand in a piece of written work or a tangible end product as part of their Home Learning, then this piece of work must be marked and feedback provided promptly (in line with school marking and feedback policy). Parents should be able to see that the Home Learning task has been marked and that the pupil has received feedback. Teachers are encouraged to award positive behaviour points to pupils for successful Home Learning - preferably with a comment, so that parents can see that the task was completed to the expected standard.
- The school will provide opportunities for pupils to complete their home-learning at school (and receive support with it) through the provision of a homework club at the end of the school day. Pupils also have access to computers at lunchtime and during registration to print off work or complete online tasks if they are unable to do this at home

D. Review / monitoring of this policy

The school's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will make regular use of planner checks and work scrutiny as well as pupil and parent feedback to ensure that this policy is being adhered to. In doing so they will at all times strive to strike a fair balance between pupil well-being and the need to ensure that all pupils make at least expected progress during their time at Eskdale