**FINSTALL FIRST SCHOOL**

### HOMEWORK POLICY

PERSON RESPONSIBLE: HEAD TEACHER

* + **Aims**

We continually strive to achieve our Vision Statement, “We Care, We Share, We Learn and Achieve,” by aiming

* To ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
* To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
* To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
* Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
* Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children’s learning.
* Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
* Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
* To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and English.
* Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
* To prepare Year 4 pupils for the transfer to middle school.Below are the minimum expectations with regard to homework. This is the minimum amount we would expect of all children and staff are perfectly happy with children who satisfy these expectations.

Year R

Reading to / with parents – 3 times / week for 5 – 10 minutes

Year 1

Reading to parents – 4 times / week for 5 – 10 minutes

One homework / week (English, Maths or Topic related) for 15 minutes

In the Summer term, one set of spellings to learn each week

Year 2

Reading to parents – 5 times / week for 5 - 10 minutes

One set of spellings to learn each week

One set of number bonds or times table to learn each week

One homework / week (English, Maths or Topic related) for 20 minutes

Year 3

Reading to parents – 5 times / week for 10 - 15 minutes

One set of spellings to learn each week

One set of number bonds or times table to learn each week

One Maths homework / week for 20 - 30 minutes each

One English or Topic related homework for 20 – 30 minutes / week

Year 4

Reading to parents – 5 times / week for 10 - 15 minutes

One set of spellings to learn each week

One times table to learn each week

One Maths homework / week for 20 - 30 minutes each

One English or Topic related homework for 20 – 30 minutes / week

Reading

Whether a child reads for the minimum or maximum time with parents will depend on how much they are enjoying the experience, which will also be related to the level of difficulty of the passage being read. We would not want this experience to be an ordeal for the child or the parents and, if it becomes so too regularly, parents should stop the session and arrange to discuss this problem with their child’s class teacher.

Projects

Occasionally, children will be asked to complete a project, on a theme of their own choice, related to a topic they have been studying in school. Such projects will replace a set number of standard homework blocks and the minimum expectation is that the completed project is representative of the amount of time allocated. For example, Year 3 might set a project to cover two blocks of homework (each of 30 minutes) before a half term holiday and one homework after a half term holiday. In this case, the homework should represent at least 1 ½ hours of effort for each pupil. Children can complete the projects in a very simple style or they can be as creative as they wish.

Some children prefer to organise themselves so that they do not have to do homework over a half term holiday. Other children, and their families, prefer to do something related to the project over the half term holiday and complete it then. This is purely down to each individual pupil and is an issue of personal organisation, which is an important life skill in itself. However, the allocated homework blocks should provide enough time to complete a project so that there is no expectation that children should have to work through a holiday.

Children in Years 1 and 2 generally do one or two projects / year whilst children in Years 3 and 4 produce three or four projects / year.

Optional Homework tasks

Additionally, children in all year groups are sometimes set “Optional Homework,” as often quite a number of parents feel that their children need more homework. This provides children with the chance to extend their learning further but is not compulsory and staff will always make this clear when setting such homework. Online activities such as ‘Education City’ and ‘Sum Dog’ also provide children with the chance to consolidate and extend their learning at home but are completely optional.

Similarly, the project style homework tasks allow children and parents the freedom to extend their learning and a wide variety of skills as children are allowed to produce their projects in whatever form they would like and spend as long as they would like on them.

Staff are very happy to accept work which represents the minimum expectations for a pupil, but we will not discourage children and parents who wish to spend longer on such tasks.

It is our aim to produce motivated, enthusiastic, independent and confident learners and if children are choosing to spend longer on such homework tasks than they have to, it would suggest that they are enjoying this style of learning and that we are, therefore, achieving our aim.

This policy was approved by the full Governing Body on 8th October 2018

This policy will be reviewed in October 2019

Governor responsible: Juliette Fleming