



Godalming Junior School

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. If you have any concerns, you should contact our Designated Safeguard Leads, Adam Samson, Erin Coleman, Kate Wilkinson, Louise Munz and Andrea Crook

HOMEWORK POLICY

This policy was reviewed: Spring 2026

This policy will be reviewed next: Spring 2027

This policy will be reviewed by: The Learning and Curriculum Committee

At Godalming Junior School, we believe that a well organised homework programme helps children to embed learning, develop skills and attitudes, support the work done within school, encourage learning conversations and whilst we invite parents to be involved, activities should be completed as independently by the child as possible. We focus on consolidating the basics: **Reading, spelling, writing and maths fluency**

Therefore, at Godalming Junior School we aim to:

- Provide clear, well planned, structured tasks that are directly linked to the relevant expectations for their year.
- Ensure that homework both supports and consolidates the learning experience offered within the school particularly in the areas of English and maths.
- Encourage parents to become involved in their children's learning e.g. this could simply be prioritising its completion or providing a conducive space for homework to be completed.
- Support families in extenuating circumstances
- Provide opportunities for children to practice key skills without being overly burdensome

Guidelines for Policy Implementation

In order for the aims of this policy to be successfully implemented the teachers, pupils and parents each have a number of important roles to fulfil.

The policy aims are closely aligned to Teaching Standard 4 plan and teach well-structured lessons by *planning a wide range of homework, which are highly effective in reinforcing, consolidating and/or extending children's learning. The policy may need to be read alongside the GJS Online Contingency Plan if the learning is to move online for whatever reason. In this event, the delivery of this policy may be put on hold at the discretion of the school.*

The policy is aligned to Educational Endowment Foundation Homework research and findings where appropriate.

Common homework activities tend to be reading, often stated as the most valuable homework a child can do, or practising spelling and number facts or times-tables, but may also include more extended activities to develop inquiry skills or more directed and focused work such as revision for examinations.

Role of the Teacher

When providing homework teachers should ensure:

- It is an integral part of their curriculum.
- There are opportunities for **revision**, **extension**, **preview** and **consolidation**.
- The pupils are aware of the importance of completing home learning activities to the highest possible standard.
- The children are clear as to the nature of the activity and what it involves.
- That realistic and achievable time constraints have been set.
- That children receive feedback concerning their homework. This will be in line with the school's Feedback Policy.
- House Points are awarded according to creativity and children whose learning has displayed excellent effort.

Role of the Parents

For parents to actively support this Homework Policy they should:

Encourage your child to complete the activities set and where possible become involved in home learning activities with them. This may involve:

1. Listening to reading and discussing the text.
2. Checking writing and presentation, if appropriate.
3. Giving guidance when there are problems, but not completing it for them.
4. Directing the child to suitable materials, dictionaries, the library or museum for example.
5. Providing written dialogue about how their child got on with their learning.

Role of the Pupil

When completing homework activities pupils should ensure that three very important aims are achieved:

1. That they take their homework seriously, see it as an extension of school and hand it in on time.
2. That they take responsibility for managing their time.
3. That they try their very best

The child also has the option of attending Homework Club, which may be available during one lunchtime a week in one of the classrooms

Guidelines for Homework Content and Time Allocation for all children

As a general guide to homework you should expect a weekly timetable of:

Year 3 & 4	Up to 30 mins Maths - Times Tables and 'Big' Question Up to 30 mins English - Reading and Spellings
Year 5 & 6	Up to 40 mins Maths - Times Tables and 'Big' Question Up to 40 mins English - Reading and Spellings
There may be additional purposeful tasks set at the discretion of the teacher. This is more frequent in year 6 as we prepare the children for the homework expectations they experience at secondary school	

Homework is not to be viewed or used as a way of attempting to get pupils to catch up with the rest of the class but to reinforce their own learning.

Guidelines for absence and incomplete homework

- If a pupil does not complete their homework on time the teacher will speak to the child and allow one extra day for completion. If this occurs regularly then a phone call home will be made. However, in Year 6 in order to prepare the children for transition to secondary school the following applies:
The child may be required to complete their Homework during break time and/or during Homework Club.

- The school is not obligated to set Homework for children who are absent from school for any sickness. The school takes the view that if the child is too ill for school then they are not expected to complete Homework that is set to the class. There may be exceptional circumstances where work is sent home but this is at the teachers' discretion and likely when a medical condition prevents a child from attending school in line with policy. As all holidays are considered unauthorised during term time, school will not set homework during this time either, as the school view will be that the child should be accessing the curriculum in school.

It is expected that homework is completed regularly and handed in on time. GJS will support pupils eligible for pupil premium funding where possible.

