Spurcroft Primary School and Nursery

Homework (Home Learning) Policy DRAFT January 2026

Purpose & aims

At Spurcroft Primary School and Nursery, we believe that home learning plays an important role in supporting children's progress and development. Homework is designed to:

- Reinforce and consolidate skills taught in school
- Provide additional practice to build confidence and fluency
- Encourage good learning habits and independence
- Strengthen the partnership between home and school
- Promote a positive attitude towards learning

Homework is carefully planned to be meaningful, manageable and appropriate to the age and stage of each child. Reading is a key priority across the whole school, alongside basic maths skills such as counting, number bonds and times tables.

Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception)

Reading and language development

Developing a love of books and stories is central to learning in the Early Years.

Nursery and Reception

- Children will take home a *book for pleasure* each Friday.
- Parents and carers are expected to share this book daily with their child.
- Children should be encouraged to:
    - Listen to the story
    - Join in with repeated phrases
    - Talk about pictures and characters
    - Retell parts of the story in their own words
- Tapestry Tasks - each Friday staff will upload a selection of tasks linked to the learning in school for children to engage with. Children are expected to complete at least one of the tasks and parents can post a photo of this. On Fridays staff and children will look on the big screen to see what children have been learning at home.

Reception – early reading

- Children will practise early phonics at home through:
    - Sound cards to practise daily
    - Phonics videos to watch at home

- Once children are ready, they will begin bringing home reading books. Children should read these aloud daily to develop fluency, confidence and reading speed.

Maths in the Early Years

Maths homework in EYFS focuses on everyday, practical activities that build number sense.

Nursery – suggested maths activities
Parents and carers are encouraged to support maths learning through simple daily activities such as:

- Counting toys, teddies or cars
- Counting steps as you walk upstairs
- Singing number songs and rhymes (e.g. *Five Little Ducks*)
- Sorting objects by colour or size
- Talking about numbers seen in the environment (doors, buses, shops)
- Sharing snacks and talking about "more" and "less"

Reception – suggested maths activities
Maths activities should continue to be practical and fun, including:

- Counting forwards and backwards to 10 and beyond
- Counting objects accurately and matching numbers to quantities
- Finding numbers around the home and outdoors
- Comparing groups using language such as *more*, *less* and *equal*
- Simple addition and subtraction using toys or everyday items
- Recognising and naming basic shapes

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

Reading and maths

- Phonics video links are sent out on MCAS and support pupils with their new learning.
- Children will bring home reading books to practise daily. The focus is on improving fluency, speed and understanding.
- Children will also bring home a reading record to be completed by parents or carers.
- Once children have completed the phonics programme, their reading homework will become a reading book chosen from the class library.
- Children are encouraged to access **Oxford Owl** for extra reading and fun quizzes.
- Children should regularly access **Numbots** to develop number fluency. This will be checked weekly by staff.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

Reading, spelling and maths

- Children should read at least **5 times a week**.
- Children bring home spelling log books daily to practise new spelling patterns.
- Each Friday, children will also receive:
    - Common words to learn to spell
    - Maths consolidation activities linked to learning from that week
- Children are expected to practise **Times Tables Rock Stars,** or practice their times tables orally or on paper, at least **5 times a week**.
- Staff share with parents the Times Tables Rock Stars heatmap each half term: October (parents evening), December, January (parents evening) March, April & June.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

Reading, SPaG and maths

- Children are expected to read regularly at home (at least 5 times a week).
- Each Friday, children will also receive:
    - Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) activities
    - Maths arithmetic practice focusing on the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division)
- Pupils should continue to use **Times Tables Rock Stars** at least **twice a week** to maintain fluency.

Other enrichment and/or practical homework

Occasionally, staff may set an additional practical or creative homework task to enrich learning in class. These tasks are designed to be engaging and enjoyable.

Examples include:

- **EYFS**: Creating a *Family Box* to support speaking and listening about family
- **Key Stage 2**: Making Roman shields when learning about the Ancient Romans, to support understanding of Roman soldiers and the tortoise formation

Inclusion and SEND

At Spurcroft Primary School and Nursery, we are committed to ensuring that homework is inclusive, accessible and meaningful for all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This approach is fully aligned with the school's SEND Policy and inclusive practice.

- Homework will be adapted where necessary to meet individual needs, strengths and abilities.
- Some pupils may be given alternative activities that better support their individual learning goals.
- We recognise that reasonable adjustments do not lower expectations; instead, they ensure that all pupils can access learning and demonstrate progress in a way that is appropriate for them.

Parents and carers of children with SEND are encouraged to communicate regularly with class teachers and the SENCO to discuss what works best at home. Homework expectations may be adapted in line with:

- Individual support plans
- EHCP outcomes
- Professional advice from external agencies, where relevant

Our aim is for all children to feel confident, supported and successful in their home learning.

Follow-up, monitoring and reporting to parents & carers

Homework is an important part of learning at Spurcroft Primary School and Nursery, and staff monitor completion and engagement carefully.

- Homework will be checked regularly by class teachers.
- Parents and carers will be informed if homework is not being completed or if there are ongoing concerns.
- Where difficulties arise, staff will work with families to offer support and find appropriate solutions.

To support pupils who may need additional help:

- **Homework clubs** are available for pupils who require extra support, time or guidance to complete their work.

Key Stage 2 expectations and follow-up

- In Key Stage 2, pupils who regularly complete their homework will be rewarded with a slightly longer playtime once a week.
- Pupils who have not completed their homework will use this time to complete some of the work they have missed, with adult support where appropriate.
- This approach reinforces responsibility and ensures that all pupils are supported to keep up with their learning.

Supporting your child

We recognise that every family is different. If there are any difficulties completing homework, parents and carers are encouraged to speak to their child's class teacher at the

earliest opportunity. Our aim is for homework to be a positive experience that supports learning and builds confidence.

Together, we can help children develop strong foundations for lifelong learning.

Monitoring and evaluation

This Homework Policy will be monitored and evaluated regularly to ensure it remains effective, inclusive and aligned with the school's aims.

- The Governing Body will have responsibility for monitoring the implementation and impact of this policy.
- Governors will review homework expectations, practice and outcomes through reports from the Headteacher and senior leaders.
- Feedback from staff, pupils and parents will be considered as part of the review process.

The policy will be reviewed in line with the school's review cycle, or sooner if required, to ensure it continues to meet the needs of all pupils at Spurcroft Primary School and Nursery.

DRAFT POLICY

Timescales

Trial starts: 30/1/26

Parent/Carer & staff feedback opportunities: 6/3/26-13/3/26

Completion of the Policy planned for 27/3/26