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Reviewed by:  
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Review date: autumn 2012, Autumn 2014

**Gargrave CE (VC) Primary School**  
**Homework Policy**

### **Introduction**

The vast majority of parents want their children to do well at school and try to help at home. Following consultation with ChristChurch School in Autumn 2011, we reviewed procedures and formalised an approach as outlined in this document. We hope it is useful for both staff and parents.

### **The Aims of Brain Builder tasks are:**

To improve the quality and effectiveness of homework tasks

To extend learning by linking homework to activities completed in the classroom.

To make homework something that children can take control of, actively engage with and take pride in.

**Reading** They do not replace the need to read, all pupils should read every day and record it in their planner (or parents record for them).

**Spellings** will not be sent home in the form of lists, however the most frequently used words are included in the planner. List of age expected spellings in the front of the planner.

Encourage children to check the list for words they need to spell or look in a dictionary

Occasional dictation in class

**Specific topic words may be built into tasks or put in home link books**

### **We will achieve this through:**

There will be opportunities during school time to review, share and discuss Brain Builder tasks.

Brain Builders will be high profile and high status in school.

### **What will it involve?**

Brain Builders will come home on a Friday, to be returned to school the following Thursday, when they will be shared in class and seen by teachers

The Learning Objective(s) will be clearly stated

Some suggested activities and ways to approach the task will be offered – this will be at a level that reflects the age and needs of the individual child

The rest is down to you and your child!

### **How can parents support their child?**

Give children time to talk about what they have to do – just the process of explaining and discussing the task will help your child to understand.

Offer ideas on how to present the work.

Give children a space to work which is away from other distractions.

Give homework a high status in your house and make it a priority.

Try to set aside specific homework times/evenings – and make time to work with your child.

Ensure that some days are homework free.

Reward excellent work.

Remind your child that there may not be a 'finished point'

### **How much Homework should my child get?**

Reception

Children in the Foundation Stage are not included in the DCSF guidelines for homework and therefore formal homework is not given. The main focus is naturally on the enjoyment and thrill of developing reading techniques and the learning of phonics (sounds) of the letters and words. This work is judged

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on an individual basis and is normally most successful when the teacher and parents liaise closely as to the next step. To develop this further, some Brainbuilder tasks are set as the year progresses.

Y1 and Y2 = 60 minutes per week

Children in these year groups will get a suggested range of homework to include reading, phonics activities and Brainbuilder tasks. The suggested amount of time for this should equate to about an hour a week.

Y3 and Y4= 90 minutes per week

The range of homework will include regular reading and Brainbuilder tasks. The suggested time for these year groups is about an hour and a half per week. Little and often is best practice – reading and spelling from the home link book should still be a constant feature.

Y5 and Y6 = 30 minutes per day

The range of homework should still include regular reading and comprehension questions to extend understanding of the text and the purpose of the author, as well as Brainbuilder tasks.

Working on these throughout the week is good practice and preparation for high school.

#### **What if parents are stuck for ideas?**

Borrow books from the school library

Use the Internet if you have it

(or your child could ask to use it at school)

Look at the world around!!

Ask your child's class teacher!

The aim of this work is to encourage the children to become more independent and motivated in their own learning and also to enable them to make links in their learning.

Adult input is encouraged but please don't do the work for them! Rather; prompt, guide, suggest and help the children to research.

#### **Review**

Parental Questionnaire 2012 revealed a huge improvement in the response from parents about their homework. There was a clear structure and choice was received on the whole positively. Some parents requested more maths focus and this will be a priority for the school in 2012-2013.

All homework **MUST** be acknowledged by the class teacher and peers, with feedback both in written and spoken form. This will improve the progress of all the pupils.