



Homework Policy



May 2024

Homework Policy

Aims and Objectives

We believe that pupil wellbeing is key and our homework policy reflects a period of reflection on the wellbeing of Ysgol Pencae pupils when completing homework. We believe homework provides a valuable opportunity for learners to practice skills learned in class. In addition, homework is an important link between school and the home, allowing parents to share in the process of educating their child, and keeping in touch with their development

Homework at Ysgol Pencae

Following seeking parents' views on homework in September 2022, we decided to revise our homework practice and schedule. 50% of those who responded to the questionnaire (110 families) decided they wanted Pencae school homework to target the following:

- Reading resource support for pupils
- Spelling Exercises
- Access to digital educational platforms.
- So we set about creating a special website as a Homework platform. This website can be accessed via this [link](#).

Homework will reflect class work therefore on the Homework platform, all classes will have access to:

Reading Books:

There will be suitable suggestions for reading books in Welsh (Reception to Year 6) and English (Year 3 - 6). These suggestions will be customized at gold, silver and bronze levels to suit all readers in the class.

List of termly spelling words:

The list will target the main spelling patterns targeted during the term (as per the school's Phonics and Spelling map). There will be suggestions as to suitable activities to do when practising these spelling patterns with the pupils. These activities will connect with activities that take place in class.

Links and tips from mathematical games:

These links and suggestions will reinforce pupils' understanding of the main mathematical elements of the term. In most cases, they will target pupils' number skills.

We encourage parents to take an interest in the homework, supervising, promoting and offering support as needed.

Weekly Reading Books:

Additionally to the homework platform, every pupil will receive an individual reading book to read at home with their parents/guardians.

Learning to read and develop to be an independent reader is an integral part of a child's development. We believe that parents/guardians have a key part in this process as we encourage them to read with their children often. We also encourage reading to the children and to share the enjoyment of reading with them to foster their interest and enjoyment of reading. We encourage children to read a little every night to become independent readers by years 5 and 6.

With the younger pupils where they are at the very start of their reading journeys, we will share games, vocabulary cards, and talking books (they will come with a tape or a link to the book being read) until they are ready to read their own books.

As well as having access to reading books, we as a school have invested in the platform, Darllen Co. Darllen Co. is an interactive Welsh language reading resource for primary school children, teachers, and parents across Wales. The platform has an array of graded Welsh books that the pupils can read on devices or they have an option to listen to the books being read. The books also allow readers to click on unfamiliar words for definitions and pronunciations.

Learners use their 'Hwb' login details to access the books. Pupils are encouraged to read Darllen Co books at home.

Occasional Specific Tasks:

Occasionally, the school may set specific homework for the pupils. More often than not these activities will be voluntary and their purpose will be to give pupils experiences or allow them to compete in a competition, e.g. Urdd Arts and Crafts competitions.

The Role of the School

- A parent meeting will be held for each class at the beginning of the Autumn term where the classroom teacher will share information and expectations of the academic year.
- We ensure that our instructions about homework are bilingual.
- If a parent has a homework question, then they can contact the school; a member of staff will be happy to discuss with them.

Role of Parents/ Guardians

- Encourage children to read regularly in both Welsh and English.
- Take an interest in homework, supervising, promoting and offering support as needed.
- Contact the school promptly to discuss any homework issues or concerns.
- Visit the local library regularly to borrow books while also taking part, if possible, in the Cardiff Libraries Challenge during the Summer holidays.

Equal opportunity

All teaching considers the need to provide equal opportunities to learners in relation to gender, race, religion, the needs of the more able/talented pupils and those learners with additional learning needs.

Review

This policy is reviewed every three years or when appropriate in connection with current developments locally and nationally. We aim to use Hwb and Google G-Suite increasingly proactively whilst further using homework as a strong medium of pupils' understanding, knowledge and skills. This policy is in line with the content of the document 'Homework in Primary and Secondary Schools' by Estyn (2004).

Publication Date: May 2024

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Chair of Governors Signature:

Review Date: May 2027