



Homework Policy

Written by: Personal Committee

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To be reviewed: Annually

Next Review: Autumn 2017

Homework Policy

Introduction

The purpose of this non statutory policy is to provide guidance on the provision of homework for teachers, parents and pupils.

For the purpose of this policy the term homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with the support of parents or carers.

The Purpose of Homework

At St. Margaret's we provide homework for the following reasons:

- to develop an effective partnership between the school and the home in pursuing the aims of the school
- to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, with particular reference to literacy and numeracy.
- to exploit all kinds of resources for learning within the home.
- to extend school learning opportunities.
- to encourage pupils over a period of time to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own in preparation for the secondary phase of their education.
- to provide over a period of time increasing opportunities for pupils to develop the skills of independent learning.

Homework Strategies

The main focus of homework should be on literacy and numeracy. Science and other subjects can be included within the strategy as the pupils move up the school, when appropriate.

The role of parents/carers is vital to the success of this policy for individual pupils. The co-operation of adults within the family group on a regular (daily) basis is key to raising achievement.

Homework should consist of a range of activities and should not be seen as simply formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Both the Literacy and Numeracy Borough strategies offer further advice regarding homework activities. Suitable homework activities could include:

- parents/carers reading to or with the child as well as hearing them read.
- other related literacy activities, i.e. spellings or practising correct punctuation.
- number games and tasks based on the IPM scheme with more formal exercises for older pupils.
- regular visits to the library to either select leisure reading materials or to enable research in connection with a topic/project.

As the child develops a greater emphasis should be placed on:

- researching information
- reading in advance as preparation for a lesson
- preparation for oral presentations
- more traditional written assignments

Recommended Time Allocations

| YEAR | AVERAGE WEEKLY | AVERAGE DAILY | SUBJECTS SET |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Foundation | 1 hour | 15 minutes reading with child | Oracy – talking with child. Number games, jigsaws etc. |
| Year 1 | 1 hour | 15 minutes reading with child | Sentence writing, numeracy topic related assignments, spellings |
| Year 2 | 1.5 hours | 20 minutes (10-15 minutes reading) | Sentence writing, numeracy topic related assignments, spellings |
| Year 3 & 4 | 1.5 hours | 20 minutes (10 minutes reading) | Spelling, other literacy, IPM maths homework. Occasional assignments for other subjects |
| Year 5 & 6 | 2.5 hours | 30 minutes (15 minutes reading) | Literacy, numeracy, science and other topic assignments |

- when homework other than reading is set, pupils still need to include the daily reading routine, reading either to themselves or to others.
- When setting homework tasks the teacher must ensure that it is manageable within the given time for both the pupil and the parent/carer.
- Teachers will be responsible for the allocation of daily homework tasks and should ensure that they follow a regular pattern (i.e. tables on Tuesday and spellings on Wednesday). The same system should be observed in both Year Group Classes.
- Teachers may allow more than one evening for some homework to be completed, to allow time for children who undertake after school activities or for information collection.

The Role of Parents and Carers in Supporting Pupils

It is the school's expectation that:

- all parents and carers will support the homework policy
- wherever possible parents will provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework or help pupils to attend other places where homework can be done (the school will provide details to parents of homework clubs or study support centres in the area as this information becomes available).
- parents will make it clear that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- parents will encourage their child and praise them when they have completed the task set.

Feedback for pupils, parents/carers and teachers

It is important that the pupils receive feedback on the tasks that they have undertaken as part of homework. The nature of this feedback will vary according to the task set. Teachers will not be expected to provide written responses to all the written tasks undertaken by the pupils. Appropriate feedback which helps to maintain pupils' motivation could include:

- Instant feedback from the adult working with the child at home (e.g. the correcting of pupils reading).
- Oral comments during class work (i.e. during discussions based on the homework assignment).
- Test results for spellings or tables.
- Self marking of assignments or reviewing work in small groups.
- Recognition of pupils' achievements by rewarding them with team points, stickers or mentioning them in assembly.
- Teachers could use homework diaries as a method of providing feedback to parents.

Special Educational Needs

Some pupils with SEN may benefit from special tasks separate from class homework. However, every effort should be made for them to do as much in common with other children as possible.

Tasks set should:

- Have a very clear focus and time allocation.
- Give plenty of opportunity for success.
- Help to develop social as well as other skills where necessary.
- Be varied and not purely written skills.
- Be manageable for teachers.

Homework for SEN pupils must not be seen solely as a time to catch up.

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the policy

The School Management Team will have the responsibility for the monitoring of homework assignments.

Consultation Process

This policy will be subject to full consultation with parents, staff and governors and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Reception Homework Timetable

Please hear your child read their book everyday.

This is important to increase their confidence and to foster a love of language and books.

Please read with your child every day and discuss the story and pictures with them.

Talk to them regularly about their day and discuss their school work with them.

Play lots of games at home. Number games and jigsaws help with their understanding of maths.

From the Spring the children will be bringing home the 'letter' sound they have been learning that week. Please help them to practice writing the letter and find objects that start with that letter sound, in the home and shops etc.

Above all make sure these activities are fun to do.

Year 1 Homework Timetable

You will be set this homework most, but not all, weeks.

| Day | Homework | Return Day |
|--|--|-------------------|
| Monday | Reading | |
| Tuesday | Reading | |
| Wednesday | Reading | |
| Thursday | Reading | |
| Friday | Reading One week Numeracy homework Alternative week Literacy homework. (Beginning 2 nd half of Autumn term through to Summer term) | Following Friday |
| You should be spending about 15 minutes per evening on your homework. | | |

Year 3 Homework Timetable

You will be set this homework most, but not all, weeks.

| Day | Homework | Return Day |
|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Monday | Spelling Sheet | Friday |
| Tuesday | Reading / Science or topic work Maths | Following Tuesday Wednesday |
| Wednesday | Reading | |
| Thursday | Maths | Friday |
| Friday | English | Monday |

Every evening practice reading.

You Should be spending about 20 minutes per evening on your homework.

Year 4 Homework Timetable

You will be set this homework most, but not all, weeks.

| Day | Homework | Return Day |
|------------------|--|-------------------|
| Monday | Spellings | Friday |
| Tuesday | Practise spellings Reading | |
| Wednesday | Maths Practise spellings Reading | Friday |
| Thursday | Practise spellings Reading | |
| Friday | English And Optional Science/Handwriting | Tuesday |

You Should be spending about 20 minutes per evening on your homework.

Year 5 Homework Timetable

You will be set this homework most, but not all, weeks.

| Day | Homework | Return Day |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| Monday | Practise Spellings Reading | Friday |
| Tuesday | Practise Spellings Reading | |
| Wednesday | Practise Spellings Reading | |
| Thursday | Practise Spellings Maths and English (Science when appropriate) | Monday |
| Friday | Reading | |

You Should be spending about 30 minutes per evening on your homework.

Year 2 Homework Timetable

You will be set this homework most, but not all, weeks.

| Day | Homework | Return Day |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Monday | Spellings | |
| Tuesday | Reading Practice Spellings Numeracy | By Friday the following week. |
| Wednesday | Reading Practice Spellings | |
| Thursday | Reading Practice Spellings Numeracy | By Friday the Following week |
| Friday | New spellings and making sentences from the spellings. | Spelling test Fridays |

You Should be spending about 20 minutes per evening on your homework.

Year 6 Homework Timetable

Your will be set this homework most, but not all, weeks.

| Day | Homework | Return Day |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| Monday | English Writing Task Spellings / Grammar | Wednesday |
| Tuesday | Maths | Thursday |
| Wednesday | Reading / Comprehension | Friday |
| Thursday | Maths | Monday |
| Friday | Science | Tuesday |

Every evening – spelling practise, tables practice, reading

You should be spending about 30 minutes per evening on your homework.

Year Homework Timetable

Your will be set this homework most, but not all, weeks.

| Day | Homework | Return Day |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Monday | | |
| Tuesday | | |
| Wednesday | | |
| Thursday | | |
| Friday | | |

You Should be spending about minutes per evening on your homework.