



Mallusk Integrated Primary School Homework Policy

Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Board of Governors.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- Use homework as a tool to develop children's learning
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences
- Reinforce and consolidate work covered in class
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a child's time in school.
2. The amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the class teacher. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

The following are government recommendations as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

Foundation Stage (P1 & P2) - 1 hour per week

Key Stage 2 (P 3 & P4) - 1.5 hours per week

Key Stage 2 (P5 and P6 & P7) - 30 minutes per day

Homework tasks may take less time. These times are guidelines.

Homework Tasks

For each Key stage of Mallusk Integrated Primary School, there follows a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist with the development of skills taught in class. Many homework tasks will be done in preparation for work to be done in class.

Foundation Stage

These may include:

- Shared Reading
- Counting games & activities
- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes.
- Identification of shapes in the environment.
- Letter sounds and actions
- Show & Tell
- Activities suggested on the Home- School Link sheet
- Bring items to school

Key Stage 1

These may include:

- Shared Reading
- Guided Reading
- 3 Spellings
- Literacy activities/ games
- Numeracy activities/ games
- Show & Tell
- 'Talk Homework' that involves discussing the focus for a future piece of work in class
- Book review
- Real life numeracy related problems
- Activities suggested on the Home- School Link sheet

Key Stage 2

They may include:

- Reading aloud to an adult on a regular basis
- Learning spellings
- 'Talk Homework' that involves discussing the focus for a future piece of work in class
- Reading comprehension activities
- Numeracy Activities
- Planning pieces of writing
- Planning presentations
- Researching topics
- Learning Multiplication/ Division Tables

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a parents meeting, or in the home- school links Note given out at the beginning of each half term.
- To set homework regularly
- To ensure that homework is set at an appropriate level for the pupil
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks
- To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to pupils

Role of the Principal and Governors

- To check compliance of the Policy
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the homework policy

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

At Mallusk Integrated Primary School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved and work in partnership with their child..

However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. We are committed to creating a positive ethos that will enable everyone to achieve their full potential.

General

Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and giving them feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. Marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life.

If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.

If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given.

It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher or target group teacher.

Review

This policy will be reviewed each year.