



Mallusk Integrated Primary School Homework Policy

Introduction

At Mallusk Integrated Primary School we recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon and should have an opportunity to play. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities, e.g. swimming, dance, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc.

With this in mind, we also believe that meaningful and purposeful homework can consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding. It can also provide an opportunity for parents & carers to share in what is being learned in school and enables them to demonstrate to their child that they value education. We endeavour to work in partnership with parents & carers. We value their support with and participation in their child's education. This 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/carers 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/ carers, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents/ carers 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

Homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember:

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.
5. Homework set will consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Maths and will be connected to work going on in class.
6. Homework should develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents/ carers 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 tables.

The following are suggestions of appropriate time allocations for homework activities. Homework tasks may take less time.

Foundation Stage (P1 & P2) – 20 minutes per day

Key Stage 1 (P3 & P4) – 20- 30 minutes per day

Key Stage 2 (P5, P6 & P7) – 40- 55 minutes per day

Homework Tasks

The nature of homework will change as children get older. For children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, developing a partnership with parents and carers, and involving them actively in children's learning is a key objective.

Short activities of different kinds (simple games, learning spellings and number facts and reading together) provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult, and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning, and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not be long, to study on their own.

By the time children reach P7, their homework programme will cover a wider range of tasks and curriculum content. This approach will benefit their learning and also ensure that, in relation to homework as much as to other aspects, their transition to post- primary school is as smooth as possible.

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, 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. Some homework tasks will be done in preparation for work to be done in class.

Foundation Stage

These may include:

- Shared/ Guided Reading
- Counting games & activities
- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes
- Identification of shapes in the environment
- Letter sounds and actions
- Letter formation
- Show & Tell preparation
- Bring items to school

Key Stage 1

These may include:

- Shared Reading/ Guided Reading
- Spellings (*teachers will decide how many are appropriate for each child*)
- Literacy activities/ games
- Numeracy activities/ games
- Learning Multiplication/ Division Tables
- Show & Tell preparation
- 'Talk Homework' that involves discussing the focus for a future piece of work in class

Key Stage 2

They may include:

- Reading aloud to an adult on a regular basis
- Spellings (*teachers will decide how many are appropriate for each child*)
- '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 overview of what is being covered in class.
- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents/ carers when necessary and give suggestions on how they might assist their child. This will be done via the [MIPS Home Learning Site](#) or Class Dojo.
- 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 classwork.
- 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/ carers when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Inform new parents/ carers to the school so that they are aware of the homework policy.

Role of Parents/Carers

At Mallusk Integrated Primary School we are very keen for parents/ carers to support, supervise and get involved with their child's homework. There is evidence that this has a positive impact as well as providing enjoyment, and that the quality of interaction may be more important than the quantity. While this supportive role is central to homework in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, it is also important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent/ carer is unsure about what their role should be, or is having any difficulties or issues with homework, they should discuss it with their child's teacher as soon as possible.

Parents/ carers are expected to:

- Access the MIPS Learning Site and read the information provided.
- Keep up to date with communications from the class teacher via the MIPS Learning Site, Class Dojo or email.
- Support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- Provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- Encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- Become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- Make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

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. If the child is too ill to come to school, we will assume the child is 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. We do not give homework when families 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.

This policy will be reviewed regularly.

Date: November 2023