

Milton Road Primary School

Homework Policy

Homework refers to any work or activity which pupils may be asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. Involving parents as partners in their child's learning is a vital part of the education process and we aim to promote this partnership. The Home-School Agreement sets out the commitments expected of pupils, parents and the school towards homework. It is also equally important to allow children free time to enjoy other pursuits out of school hours, especially those that contribute to their social, physical and academic development.

The purposes of homework are to:

- involve parents in their child's education;
- consolidate and reinforce knowledge, skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home;
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading;
- encourage pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

Feedback for Pupils, Parents and Teachers

Where a homework task is shared with a parent, children receive immediate feedback from that adult. In the case of work children do on their own, feedback may be through class work, tests or comments from their teacher. Pupils may also be asked to review their own work with a partner or in small groups. Opportunities for recognition of children's efforts and successes may also be taken in other ways, for example in assembly, in class time or through displays.

At Foundation Stage and Key Stage One

Parents are encouraged to help their children at home with practising correct letter formation and letter sounds. Guidance is given to help parents in these areas however no formal homework is set.

Homework Activities

Reading

- Reception and Year 1 children regularly take home books to read or share with parents.
- In Year 2 children may take books home daily.
- The Reading Diary serves as a dialogue between home and school, recording books read, comments and queries.

Spelling

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 take home the weekly spellings for extra practice.

Numeracy

Children in Year 2 have the opportunity to borrow maths games on a weekly basis to play at home.

Topic/Project work

From time to time all children are offered the opportunity to collect materials or information linked to topics or projects within their class or year group.

Time to be Spent on Homework at Foundation and Key Stage One

There are no precise guidelines given. In practice, factors such as tiredness, enthusiasm and the availability of adult support may determine the length of time spent on an activity.

At Key Stage Two

The Nature of Homework

Homework may take a variety of forms:

- completion or preparation;
- reinforcement or research;
- time-limited or open-ended;
- parent involvement or child independence encouraged;
- school resources or home resources;
- short term tasks or long term tasks.

The Type and Amount of Homework

The main focus of homework for children at Key Stage Two is on **literacy** and **numeracy** with other subjects added to the programme as they move through the school. All children should read to their parent or, if they are fluent readers, read on their own for at least 10-20 minutes a day. This may be done in the context of homework or separately. A reading diary is provided in Year 3 to record books read and comments.

To facilitate clear communication of homework assignments between home and school, a homework diary is provided for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 and all other children who wish to make use of it. Parents are encouraged to establish routines for checking with their child what homework has been set and the day for its return to school. Homework diaries and reading record books provide an opportunity for pupils, teaching staff and parents to record their comments if they wish. Parent consultations also provide a forum for dialogue on homework.

In addition to these regular activities, older children are given some homework of other kinds. This may include:

- finding out information;
- reading in preparation for lessons;
- preparing oral presentations;
- more traditional written assignments.

At the start of each term children bring home a letter from the class teacher outlining the areas of the curriculum to be covered that term, with recommended websites where appropriate. They also bring home clear guidance on the weekly expectations for homework routines, the days to expect homework tasks and the days on which work is to be returned to school. Class teachers ensure consistency in homework practice between parallel classes. Parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher if they are unsure about any aspects of their child's homework.

In Years 3 and 4 most children should be able to complete homework in approximately one and a half hours each week and in Years 5 and 6 approximately two and a half hours each week.

Date: Summer 2007

To be reviewed: 2009