

THE MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Home Learning Policy

At The Meadows we believe that 'Home Learning' should be an enjoyable, shared experience for parent and child, and should fully complement and enhance the child's learning in school.

Definition

'Home Learning' describes work which is set to be completed outside the school timetable and represents an extension of the learning activities provided and organised through the school curriculum.

Rationale

At The Meadows, we believe that learning at home, through the setting of appropriate 'Home Learning' tasks, is an essential part of a good education. It is a direct way of more closely involving parents in their child's education and gives pupils the opportunity to *consolidate and reinforce* the learning they have completed in the classroom.

The involvement of parents in their child's learning at home is an important way of helping a child to do well at school. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school, and into adult life.

Aims

- To foster a productive home-school partnership, where children are supported by the adults around them to achieve their best.
- To develop a positive attitude to learning as a life skill rather than just a school-based skill
- To directly involve parents in their child's development of key skills such as reading, writing (including spelling & handwriting) and maths so that children are prepared well for their future education and life-long learning.
- To allow children additional time to complete tasks or practise and consolidate skills learned at school.
- To develop in children, particularly through Key Stage 2, the independent learning habits that they will need for their future education.
- To keep parents and carers informed of the themes that children will be covering each term so that they can support wider study of the theme at home.
- To provide children with increasing opportunities for personalisation and choice enabling them to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Guidelines/ General Principles

The type and amount of home learning will vary depending on the age of the children and what the teacher considers to be relevant at the time.

The majority of home learning tasks will be provided once a week, usually on a Friday, and children will have until mid-week the next week to complete the tasks set. This allows time for staff to mark and respond to the work received before issuing a new set of Home Learning tasks.

Home Learning Policy

When appropriate, home learning tasks may be differentiated to enable those who have special educational needs to complete a task at their level.

Home learning tasks will not always be marked in detail. However, each piece of written home learning will be acknowledged and responded to, if required, by either the class teacher or teaching assistant.

We will always try to make home learning tasks as clear to understand as possible. However, if your child seems to be finding the task too difficult or does not understand what to do, we will always be pleased to provide further explanation and support upon request.

Detailed below are the home learning recommendations for each stage throughout the school.

Early Years Foundation Stage - Year R **Home Learning Time:** Approx. 5-10 minutes per school night

General expectations for Reception pupils: (4 -5 years of age)

- Daily reading and phonics practise with an adult
- One topic related home learning task (usually handed out on a Friday)

Key Stage 1 – Years 1 and 2 **Home Learning Time:** Approx. 10-20 minutes per school night

General expectations for Y1/2 pupils: (5-7 years of age)

- Children to read with an adult at least 4 or 5 times per week.
- Children to practise their spellings and phonics sounds daily
- Other home learning tasks related to the week's learning (usually handed out on a Friday)

Lower Key Stage 2 – Years 3 and 4 **Home Learning Time:** Approximately 20-30 mins per school night

General expectations for Y3/4 pupils: (7-9 years of age)

- Daily practise of spellings, reading and times tables.
- One Literacy & one Maths task to be completed each week related to week's learning in school.
- One topic related task to be completed over the course of the following week,

Upper Key Stage 2 – Years 5 and 6 **Home Learning Time:** Approximately 30 mins+ per school night

General expectations for Y5/6 pupils: (9-11 years of age)

- The equivalent of 10-15 minutes per night practising reading, spellings and times tables.
- One literacy and one maths task per week (approximately 30 minutes per task), usually handed out on a Friday for return later the following week.

Home Learning Policy

As detailed in our Home-School Agreement, these are the expectations of pupils, parents/carers and school staff.

EXPECTATIONS OF PUPILS

Pupils are asked to:

- inform parents of current home learning tasks;
- carry out tasks set by the teacher agreed in the home learning contract;
- complete work and return it to school on time;
- ask the teacher for help/support when needed.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

Parents are asked to:

- take an active interest in their child's learning and support and work alongside them when necessary, encouraging children to complete tasks as independently as possible;
- check work to ensure it has been completed and provide comments about how independently tasks were completed by their child
- help provide a suitable learning environment and set appropriate times for the child to complete their work;
- encourage high standards of presentation in all tasks
- contact the school if there are any issues related to Home Learning.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE SCHOOL

School staff are asked to:

- undertake to supply a variety of meaningful, stimulating, varied and interesting activities so that home learning does not become a chore for the teacher or child;
- provide support and guidance for any pupils who require it;
- return tasks completed at home to the child and provide information for pupils about how well they completed the task;
- offer positive recognition, particularly for a child's effort in completing the tasks set.

Home Learning Policy

We recognise that home learning is only part of a child's education outside of the school day. Many children participate in a wide range of extra clubs and activities that are extremely beneficial to a child's all-round development, as well as their general health and well-being. We therefore rely on parents to judge what they consider to be an appropriate length of time for their child to spend engaged in Home Learning tasks, on any particular evening.

We recognise that children often have a wide range of other after-school commitments and we therefore rely on parents and carers to be flexible as to how and when tasks are completed. However, we do expect all children to complete the Home Learning tasks set by their teacher by the agreed deadline. If there are specific circumstances which have prevented your child from completing their weekly Home Learning, please make contact with your child's class teacher/s to arrange an extension.

At Key Stage 2, in preparation for transition to secondary school, children who have not completed their Home Learning tasks by the given deadline, will be overseen completing their Home Learning tasks at either playtime or lunchtime on this day.