

HOMEWORK POLICY

Policy Date: April 2019



INTRODUCTION

Learning at home is an essential part of a good education. Regular homework is important, as it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home and build on the knowledge taught in class, and helps them work towards improving important skills. It also encourages children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and, later, in adult life.

Homework activities are an important part of the home/school partnership and all children are expected to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance and support their work in class. 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 pupils school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older but this may also vary through the school year and be appropriate to the ability of the child.
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 should be set regularly from Reception to Year 6.

PURPOSE

By setting regular homework for pupils, we aim to:

1. Develop an effective partnership between the academy and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the academy and the development of their child.
2. Encourage pupils as they get older to develop their confidence and self-discipline.
3. To study on their own, developing independence, and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.
4. Extend and support learning - consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding in learning journeys - particularly in English and Maths.
5. Ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupils.

Our homework policy is designed to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the academy.
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences.

CONTENT OF HOMEWORK

For children in Reception and Key Stage 1, the emphasis of homework is on developing a partnership with parents/carers and involving them actively in their child's learning. The homework at this stage will mainly consist of short activities of different kinds such as simple games, learning spellings and number facts and, of course, reading together. This provides a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning at school, 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, to study on their own. By the time children reach Year 5 and 6, their homework will cover a wider range of tasks and curriculum content. This will ensure that, in relation to homework their transition to Year 7/secondary school is as smooth as possible.

For all children, the main focus of homework will be on English and Maths. Science and other subjects will be included as children move up the school, without losing the focus on basic skills.

ENGLISH

Regular reading for pleasure is vital for all children. For children in Reception and Key Stage 1, homework mainly consists of regular reading with parents/carers and looking at books together. Maintaining regular reading practice and listening to others read is essential throughout school. Children in Key Stage 2 should be encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes a day. This can be either be independent or to an adult.

Other English related homework will include learning spellings and practising correct punctuation.

MATHS

In Maths, the teacher may set number games and tasks, and more formal exercises for older children, which they can do at home. As the children get older, times tables are a key skill and children are encouraged to have confident recall using the support of programmes such as 'Times Table Rock Stars'. 'My Maths' is an online programme for supporting Maths strategies and all children in Key Stage 1 and 2 have their own unique login so they can access it at home.

DFE HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

Year Group	Time Allocation	Type
Years 1 and 2	1 hour / week	Reading, spellings, other English work and number work plus projects in support of curriculum learning
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours / week	English and Maths as for Years 1 and 2, plus projects in support of curriculum learning
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes a day	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on English and Mathematics; but also ranging widely over the curriculum

HOMEWORK ALLOCATION ACROSS OF THE ACADEMY

At Maltby Manor Academy we have chosen to follow the Government recommended time allocations for homework. In order to allow for children's other activities, at least three days or evenings will be given between setting the homework and the time for it to be handed in.

Year Group	Example of Homework
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten minutes or more a day sharing a book/reading with an adult • 'Wordy Worm' – reading/spelling words
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading with an adult • Maths games to share at home. • Phonics Games • My Maths Online Games • Homework Menu
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading with an adult • Weekly Spellings • Gradual build up to weekly English/Maths tasks • End of Key Stage Assessment Practice Booklets • My Maths Online Games • Homework Menu • TT Rock Stars
Year 3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading with an adult • Weekly Spellings • Weekly English/Maths tasks • My Maths Online Games • Homework Menu • TT Rock Stars
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading • Spellings to learn for weekly test • Weekly English/Maths tasks • My Maths Online Games • Homework Menu • TT Rock Stars • Reading Challenges
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty minutes or more a day reading • Weekly Spellings • Weekly English/Maths and sometimes science tasks • Homework Menu • TT Rock Stars • Reading Challenges • End of Key Stage Assessment Practice Booklets <p>In the spring term revision for SATs will form the main part of Y6 homework.</p>

PRESENTATION

Our expectation is that the work children do at home is of the same standard as they produce in school. For example, for older children writing should be using a joined legible script, using **pencil or black ink**. All work must be dated. Homework will be completed in homework books applying the children's basic skills.

ROLE OF THE TEACHER

Class teachers are responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for pupils and parents/carers. They will also ensure that there are regular patterns to homework, particularly in English and Maths. In supporting children with their homework and its completion, teachers should:

- Provide a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in class.

- Ensure that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability.
- Give clear instructions for each homework activity and a learning objective so the purpose of the task is made clear.
- Communicate with parents and keep them informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be studied, and their child's individual targets.
- Provide feedback to the child as to the quality of homework completed.
- Communicate to parents the expectation around homework through weekly updates/bulletins.

ROLE OF THE PARENT/CARER

Parents need to support their child with homework by providing a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which they can do it. Often, particularly with younger children, parents will need to work with their child. Parents should make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage their child to ask their teacher for further guidance. For children in Key Stage 2 who have difficulty completing homework, a lunchtime session will be made available for them to complete it.

Parents should:-

- Provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets;
- Provide a suitable place, equipped with a comfortable chair, clear table space, good light;
- Provide encouragement and support to children when they require it;
- Support the academy in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning;
- Encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed;
- Be actively involved in the homework of younger children in particular.

ROLE OF THE PUPIL

To develop independence and responsibility, children at all ages should be supported in developing good behaviours and attitudes around homework. Children can be supported so that they:-

- Make full use of all the opportunities that they are presented with.
- Tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude.
- Take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.
- Be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school – bring their learning pack to school each day.
- Take responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

MARKING AND FEEDBACK

Homework will be marked in accordance with the Marking Policy.

It is important that feedback is given to pupils, parents/carers and teachers as soon as quickly as possible. This is given in a number of ways:

- Immediately by parents or carers.
- Discussion in class where homework is a part of the class work.
- Through tests such as tables or spellings.
- Individual comment from the teacher on written assignments –this can be written in their planner.
- Pupils reviewing the work done in small groups;
- Presentation of homework in class and school assemblies.

Teachers are interested to know how children carried out activities, whether they were too hard/ too easy/ interesting, etc. The 'Planner' is an ideal place for parents/carers and teachers to record any comments.

Parents may also comment on whether the time allocation was appropriate or whether the activity was too short/too long. As with all school activities, parents are invited to discuss any queries with their child's class teacher.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS

Homework activities should be differentiated to meet children's individual needs, including any special educational needs.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Senior Leadership Team will monitor the implementation of this policy and collate feedback from parents/carers, staff and pupils. This will be used to inform the review of the homework policy.