

# Meadowside CP & Nursery School



## Homework Policy

<b>Policy written by</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>Policy Updated</b>	<b>November 2016</b>
<b>Reviewed &amp; Agreed by Governors</b>	<b>December 2016</b>
<b>Next Review</b>	<b>December 2019</b>
<b>Head teacher</b>	
<b>Chair of Governors</b>	

## **Policy Audit**

This quick audit will help all staff and Governors to assess whether the basics of this Policy are in place.

This Policy complies with Warrington LA guidance.	<b>YES</b>
The Policy is available for staff at:	<b>School Office and school website</b>
And for parents/carers at:	<b>School Office and school website</b>

## **Writing and Reviewing Policy and Guidance**

The Home Learning Policy relates to other policies including:

- Parent Involvement Policy
- Teaching and learning policy
- Marking and feedback policy

### **1. Introduction**

Research has shown that the completion of homework has a very positive and significant effect on children's achievement and embeds positive learning habits for life long learning.

## **2. Aims**

At Meadowside CP & Nursery Primary School we aim to aid each child's progress towards achieving his or her full potential with the assistance, support and cooperation of parents. By setting a little homework on a regular basis and on an increasing ratio, from Reception to Yr 6, we are preparing children for the demands and responsibilities of secondary school and life thereafter.

## **3. Objectives**

At Meadowside CP & Nursery Primary School we see homework as an opportunity to:

- consolidate the work done in school
- prepare children for the work to come
- develop children's research skills by encouraging them to use libraries, the internet and a range of other resources
- provide opportunities for individualised work
- provide structured opportunities for parental involvement and support
- provide information for parents about the on-going work of the class
- encourage the children to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for learning
- develop good habits such as independence and self-discipline in learning
- train pupils in planning and organising their time

## **4. What is Homework?**

Homework is not necessarily written work. It is any task that a child is asked to complete at home. It may consist of reading, learning by heart and reinforcement of class work, research and project work or further practice of skills learnt in class.

At Meadowside we recognise the need for children to adopt a balanced approach to their out of school activities. We appreciate the value of extra curricular activities (sport, music, dance, drama, other hobbies, etc.) and believe that a well balanced, healthy child should be encouraged to develop their own particular interests in as many of these activities as possible. Therefore we

attempt to balance the amount of homework given to children with their other out of school commitments.

## **5. Parents as Partners**

At Meadowside we value the important role that parents play as co-educators of their child. Parents are welcome to discuss any matters regarding homework with their child's class teacher on a formal or informal basis. As the primary educators of their children, parents are encouraged to support and reinforce the shared expectations by as many means as possible. Learning is a shared responsibility between children, parents, teachers and teaching assistants. Children are encouraged and challenged in their learning as they aim for excellence. In order to achieve this goal, we at Meadowside, work with parents and carers as a partnership, expanding the curriculum, extending the curriculum into the home and building on experiences shared outside the school.

## **6. How and when is homework given out?**

All children at Meadowside CP & Nursery are given homework regularly.

**Reception-** We set an activity each week based around a different area of learning and each child has their reading book changed on a Monday and Thursday. We also give out phase 2/3 sounds and high frequency words as the children become ready for them.

**Year 1-** We expect children to read 2 reading books a week, We set a writing task, to write a sentence from their reading book in writing book, An activity sheet is also provided for either phonics or maths.

**Year 2-** We give out spellings - 3 groups linked to the sound they are covering in phonics or support for spelling and then either a grammar worksheet linked to what we are doing or a comprehension. For maths, we put in a differentiated sheet, linked to the topic. It is given out on a Friday to be back by Wednesday - spellings tested on a Monday and then usually re-tested on a Friday to see if they can beat their score from Monday.

**Year 3-** We set a maths and writing piece of homework each week, which goes out on a Friday and needs to be returned to school by the following Thursday. The children also have times tables and spellings to practice.

**Year 4-** We give out homework every Friday and expect it back by Wednesday at the latest. We give out maths homework focused on recent skills developed in Singapore sessions, a comprehension and a grammar based activity.

**Year 5-** We set a piece of English and Maths based homework each week that goes home on Friday and needs completing no later than Wednesday. Additionally, the reading journals are checked daily.

as well as weekly spellings to practice.

**Year 6-** We set homework on a Friday to be returned on a Wednesday, it usually consists of maths, spellings, grammar plus they have times tables to learn, We sometimes also put a grammar test on a website we use called SPAG.com.

On occasions children may also receive homework on one of the days unspecified e.g. if they have not completed an activity in school within the given time frame or if the teacher feels that reinforcement of a particular skill is necessary.

If homework is not completed, children are expected to complete within school time during break or lunchtimes.

Marking of homework will be a light touch, as agreed in the marking and feedback policy.

## **7. Homework /Reading Planner**

To help both the parent and the child to focus on the homework, our pupils are given a planner. The planner can be used by both parent and teacher to pass on any comments about the homework/reading and should be signed by the parent to indicate that they have overseen the homework and are happy with the effort that has been put in by the child. Any comments regarding the homework, for example, if the child encountered difficulties, should be written either directly on the homework sheet/s or in the homework/reading planner. Parents are also invited to comment on their child's reading progress in the planner.

## **8. Where should children do their homework?**

Children will have their own personal preferences about where they like to complete their homework, but in general the following conditions are suggested:

1. In a warm, well lit area of the house.
2. On a flat surface, preferably a table/desk, for all written activities.
3. For reading a comfortable chair.
4. Away from distractions like TV, pets or other family members who are not involved in the homework.

Homework should be completed in pencil or in an appropriate Berol pen. Homework should always be presented neatly.

## **9. Time Allocation for Homework**

The following is a guide for the time that we feel should be spent on homework per week:

- Nursery & Reception – approx 30 minutes a week
- Years 1 and 2 – approx 45 to 60 minutes a week
- Years 3 and 4 – approx 60 – 90 minutes a week
- Years 5 and 6- approx 2 hrs a week

This allocation does not include the time children should spend reading each evening.

In exceptional circumstances, if you require additional homework to support your child's learning at home then please discuss this with your child's class teacher.

We would kindly ask however that any additional homework requested is supported and corrected by the parent or carer.

## **10. Checklist for Parents**

- √ Supervise the homework, discuss it with your child and encourage them to do the best they can.
- √ Help your child to organise his/her homework into a little a night rather than the whole lot on a Sunday!
- √ If your child fails to hand in her/his homework on two separate occasions within the same month without a genuine excuse, we will enlist your support in ensuring that the homework is completed in future.
- √ Suggestions on how parents can help their children at home will be discussed at parents' evenings and our basic skills parent meetings.

## **11. Monitoring and Review**

A copy of the Homework policy is published on our school web-site and is reissued to parents periodically to take account of any changes in practice or to highlight changes in the school's homework priorities.

Homework is reviewed within the cycle of school development planning.

## **LITERACY SKILLS**

READING: All children are encouraged to read every night for at least five minutes and expected to talk about their book with an adult.

(This is in addition to their allocated homework). With the very youngest children this may simply be a time when parents share a story with their child. With more competent readers it may take the form of sharing a book together or the child reading independently. Children will be encouraged to bring home a reading scheme book plus a school library book each evening. The class teacher, pupil and parent in the child's reading record book will make comments on the child's reading progress.

All children are expected to record their reading in their planner every week.

All children from starting school will be expected to learn phonic sounds and blends from flashcards. All children from Year 1 will be given spellings to learn each week. Often these words will have a common letter pattern or blend. To help the children really learn the words, parents should ask the children to practise spelling them throughout the week as writing them out on one occasion is not usually enough to memorise the words. Children also benefit from reading and writing the words in context, e.g. by making up sentences that include the word or words.

The children should be encouraged to use the Look, Read, Cover, Write, Check method so that they are looking at and trying to remember the whole word and not simply relying on sounding the word out.

## **MATHEMATICS SKILLS**

All children are expected to learn their tables.

**In Year 2** this will usually be x2, x 5, x 10

**In Year 3** this will usually be x 3, x 4, x 8,

**In Year 4** this will usually include x 6, x 7, x 9, x11, 12

**In Year 5 & 6** there will be continual repetition of previous tables learned.

All children will be set at least one piece of mathematics weekly. This may be computation, practice a skill or a problem solving task.

## **THINKING & CREATIVE SKILLS**

All children will be given a creative, investigational task during a longer holiday, which will help them to prepare for their new topic after the holiday.