



# Homework Policy

**Homework is defined as *any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.* At Mayflower Primary School we see work done at home as a valuable part of school work.**

### **The Purpose of Homework**

The school regards the purpose of homework as being to:

- Develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school and the development of their child;
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in English and Maths;
- 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, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

### **Aims**

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do;
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment;
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment;
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.

### **The Nature of Homework**

Mayflower Primary School teaching staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities, e.g. swimming, ballet, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc. Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. We hope parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

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 setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
2. 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 should be set regularly from the Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception) to Year 6.

### **Recommended Time Allocation**

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school. Normally, at least 5 or 6 days will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables, or where an extended project has been set.

### **Homework Tasks**

Listed below, for each class of Mayflower Primary School, are a number of example tasks and activities that **might** be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, 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 pupils in the process of their development.

## 1. Home Reading

The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that children will read for pleasure in their own time. Key Stage One pupils will be provided with a suitable school reading book, which can be taken home to read with a parent or other adult person. A record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to or read to their child; bear in mind that 'reading' does not necessarily mean their school reading book! There is a huge range of other reading material, from TV guides and comics to recipes and instructions! Pupils in Key Stage Two will be expected to take responsibility for their own reading books as necessary. Parents will be asked to sign reading homework to indicate that it has been completed.

## 2. Spellings

Spellings will be given to each child to learn using the Assertive Spelling programme. Some spellings may be differentiated by pupil ability, some will be from the National Curriculum Common Exception Words (CEW) list, others may be key words from topics.

**Early Years Foundation Stage** These may include:

- Daily reading and sounds;
- Number recognition, such as counting up and down stairs or reciting nursery and counting rhymes;
- Identification of shapes in the environment;
- Topic or class story related work;
- Fastening and unfastening buttons and zips and tying shoelaces.

**Key Stage 1:** These may include:

- Daily reading;
- Spellings, including CEW;
- Phonics;
- Word pots;
- Basic number, such as introduction to times tables;
- Class topic related work.

**Lower Key Stage 2:** These may include:

- Reading daily;
- Spellings and multiplication tables;
- English activities, maths activities and / or topic related projects or activities which could be set over a period of weeks.

**Upper Key Stage 2:** These may include:

- Reading daily
- Spellings and multiplication tables;
- Maths activities, English activities
- Topic related projects or activities which could be set over a period of weeks.
- SATs preparation / revision

## Topic Work

Pupils will be given the opportunity to research topics they are studying in class as they move through Key Stage 2. This research could be sourced from the local library, the internet or from family members. Pupils will be given the opportunity to feed back what they have discovered to the whole class. Teachers may challenge pupils to undertake the completion of their own topic over a half term or term.

## Assembly Theme of the Week

Each class will have a homework to *think or talk about* in relation to our assembly themes. For example, if the theme was 'Responsibility' they might be expected to show responsibility at home in the form of making their bed daily, or remembering their school bag etc.

There will be space provided on the homework sheet for parents/carers to comment.

Wherever possible, staff will try to acknowledge any homework that is returned by 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.

Merits will be awarded for completion of homework and for additional effort or excellence.

### **Role of the parents/carers**

At Mayflower Primary School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved. The school recognises that parents and carers have a key role to play in supporting pupils' homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older. For much of their homework, particularly with younger children, parents and carers will be encouraged to become actively involved in joint homework activities.

We ask parents:

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.
- We ask you to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework – alone, or more often for younger children, together with an adult. We do not envisage a primary school child spending time in isolation with work he or she may find difficult. Give support and help but do not do the work for the children.
- Please support children in completing tasks and return work in a tidy presentable state.

**To avoid 'battles' over homework we recommend:-**

- that children should be allowed to work at an appropriate pace;
- the task is undertaken at an appropriate time when the child is best able to concentrate;
- your child may need lots of encouragement, praise and even your company and help for certain tasks;
- that work at home is perceived as a shared activity;
- work at home should be planned carefully around other interests to avoid clashes;
- it should not be used as a threat or punishment.

**Your HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT and PRAISE is the key to success.**

### **Concerns**

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage them to ask their teacher for further guidance. If you have any concerns about the levels of homework or the content etc., please see your child's class teacher. Do not let your child get upset about homework; if there is a problem come in and speak to the teacher about it.

### **Role of the Class Teacher**

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance on how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, or during a parent's consultation evening.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

### **Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body**

- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

### **Racial Equality & 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. Mayflower Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

Example of Homework Template



# Homework

**Class:**

**Date:**

**Reading**

**Spelling**

These will be tested on

**Topic**

## Theme of the Week

Assembly theme -

Talk / think about

Parent's/carer's comments:

