

Macaulay Primary Academy

Homework Policy

September 2016

We at Macaulay Primary Academy are committed to continually strive to raise the standards of achievement of all our pupils. As part of this drive we would ask parents to support their children in a regular programme of homework set by the school. In the 1998 DfES publication **Homework Guidelines for Primary and Secondary School** it clearly states that: 'A good well managed homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.'

Introduction

The DfEE's guidance defines homework as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time. Short activities such as simple games, learning spellings and number facts provide an important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills. At Macaulay Primary Academy homework already forms an important part of home/school agreements between parents and carers.

The purpose of homework

- To develop an effective partnership between home and school.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- To exploit resources for learning which are not available in school.
- To extend school learning; for example through additional reading.
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own.

Arrangements for homework

Homework should not prevent children from participating in other school activities. As children progress through the school the homework will become slightly more demanding.

Recommended time for homework

The Government's recommended time allocation, based on current good practice, is set out in *Homework: Guidelines for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools*, as follows;

Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week	Reading, spelling, other literacy work and number work
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week	Literacy and numeracy as for years 1 and 2, with occasional assignments in other subjects

Years 5 and 6 30 minutes per day Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy, but also ranging widely over the curriculum

We have considered these guidelines carefully and at Macaulay Primary Academy the arrangements are:

Foundation Stage

Sound books are sent home daily in Reception for children to practise their sounds, key words and writing of decodable words using phoneme frames. Later in the year a homework book is introduced for children with activities that develop their learning in Literacy, Numeracy and other areas of the curriculum relating to the topic.

Children will also have an individual reading book and key words to read at home when their teacher feels they are ready for this challenge.

Year 1/ Year 2

In years One and Two homework tasks should take about one hour per week. Homework should not be used simply as an opportunity to complete work that was not completed in the lesson.

The daily reading recommended by the government for all primary children is done as part of the homework. This regular reading is vital, it should include looking at books together, reading practice and listening to others read. Other literacy tasks may include learning spellings relating to phonics and handwriting on a regular basis.

Number games and tasks should also be set at least once a week. A regular pattern and familiar routine is essential. Children all have a login for Mathletics which they can access from home if they have a computer with internet access. Children without access to a computer can attend computer club at lunchtime to access the program.

Key Stage 2

A variety of homework tasks are set. These include:

- Both reading books and library books are taken home to be shared with parents. Guidance is offered to parents to enable them to help their child(ren) benefit from extra reading at home
- Spelling and mathematical facts
- Finishing work started in school where it would be beneficial for learning
- Using the internet or local library to research a topic
- In years 5 and 6, homework may be set as a means of helping the children to revise for tests, as well as to ensure that previous learning has been understood.
- All children in Key Stage 2 have a login for Mathletics

In years 3 and 4, we expect children to spend approximately 15-20 minutes per night on homework, which is made up from reading, spellings and times tables. In years 5 and 6, we expect them to spend approximately 30 minutes per night which is made up from reading, spellings, times tables and weekly piece of literacy and numeracy homework. Again the daily reading recommended by the government for all primary

children is done as part of the homework. Extra optional homework for children looking for a further challenge will be made available to them.

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

When the VLE is up and running homework be provided in a digital format. Topic based work will be shared through the VLE.

Recording and monitoring homework

It is also vital that instructions are clearly recorded in order that parents can support their child effectively. Every child from reception onwards will also be given a reading diary in which both parents and children record and comment upon the child's reading. Comments should be positive and constructive. Each child will also be given a homework book in which tasks can be recorded and feedback given. Homework should be planned at year group planning meetings. Children who complete their homework should be rewarded appropriately. If children are finding it difficult to complete work at home then teachers will provide a place in school. The policy will be accessible from the school's web site as will further details of when homework will be sent home from each class. Year 5/6 will use their planner to record their spellings and times tables.

The role of parents/ carers

We encourage parents/ carers to try to provide a suitable place and a suitable time when homework can be done. We recommend that parents/ carers encourage their children to visit the local library. As children become competent readers parents may not need to listen directly to their child, however monitoring the time they spend reading and asking them questions about the book will help them to achieve more. A list of suitable questions can be found in the front of the child's reading diary. Parents/ carers should discuss homework with their children and they should give praise when homework is completed. They should encourage and monitor homework and inform the school if any issues arise. The school provides support through a range of meetings about different areas of learning, parent's consultation evenings and through our open door policy. Children's targets are discussed with parents at the consultation event as are activities that may help the child to achieve their target. Parents/ carers should encourage and monitor homework and inform the school if any issues arise. Parents/ carers should try to motivate their children and act as a good role model.

The role of pupils

Pupils will record their homework and ensure they understand the homework task. They should demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time doing the tasks set and handing the homework in.

Special Educational Needs

It is important that homework tasks are differentiated and they should be appropriate to both the less able and the more able in school.

Tasks should:

- Have a clear focus
- Give plenty of opportunities for children to succeed.
- Help to develop social skills where necessary
- Be varied and not just written assignments
- Be manageable for teachers

Reviewed by: Sarah Clarkson

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