

## **Macaulay Primary Academy**

### **Homework Policy**

**October 2017**

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.

#### **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	30 minutes per	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy,

and 6 day 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 practice their sounds, key words and the writing of decodable words using phoneme frames. Children will also have activities sent home that develop their learning in Literacy, Numeracy and other areas of the curriculum as the year progresses. Children will also have an individual reading book and key words to read at home when their teacher feels they are ready for the challenge.

### **Year 1/ Year 2**

In years 1 and 2 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.

In Key Stage 1 homework activities will often be based around the topic, however as the year progresses phonic work and spellings will also be sent home.

Numeracy work and tasks should also be set at least once a week. A regular pattern and familiar routine is essential.

### **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.

Again the daily reading recommended by the government for all primary children is done as part of the homework.

In years 3 and 4, we expect children to spend approximately 15-20 minutes per night on homework. Homework activities will be based on topic, although children will also be expected to complete spellings, learn times tables and read regularly. In years 5 and 6 we expect them to spend approximately 30 minutes per night. In Year 5 homework will be based on topic but will include a variety of curriculum areas, including spellings and times tables. In Year 6 homework will be revision based that will be marked and used as a means of supporting children in their learning. Topic homework will also be sent home, although these activities are optional.

## **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 in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 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 and should be recorded on the weekly planning sheets as should any comments regarding the assessment of completed work. 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. Year 5/6 children 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. 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 breakfast 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 try to motivate their children and act as a good role model. A homework club is available for targeted children.

## **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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