

Meadowside CP & Nursery School



Homework Policy

Policy written by	School
Policy Updated	October 2018
Reviewed & Agreed by Governors	December 2018
Next Review	December 2020
Head teacher	Mr S Wright
Chair of Governors	Mrs J Warburton

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.	YES
The Policy is available for staff at:	School Office and school website
And for parents/carers at:	School Office and school website

Writing and Reviewing Policy and Guidance

The Home Learning Policy relates to other policies including:

- Teaching, Learning & Assessment 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 and their future in high school
- 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. Homework Expectations

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

Nursery- An activity board is set up in the parent's foyer, with Maths and Writing homework task that can be completed at home. The child will receive a raffle ticket for every task completed and there are prizes drawn every half term. Reading books are available for the parents to choose and select every week. At parents evening, we set out clear expectations to engage them in their child's home learning.

Reception- We set an activity each week based around a different area of learning and each child has their reading book changed twice a week and we expect home reading as a minimum of 3 times a week. 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 at home at least 3 x a week, We set 5 key words which they practise at home and write out and a maths sheet/ activity linked to what the learning has been in class.

Year 2- We give out differentiated spellings - linked to the sound they are covering in phonics or support for spelling and then they have to write out sentences putting the words in context. For maths, we link our learning to consolidate our class work. It is given out on a Thursday to be back by Wednesday - spellings are tested once a week.

KS2 - We set differentiated spellings to support the sound taught in class that week. The children are expected to write a sentence with increasing challenge, using the spelling word, so they gain a better understanding and applying the word in context. In maths, children are given 4 calculations to secure their understanding of number. They are also

expected to learn a times table, with corresponding division facts, to prepare them for the KS2 times table testing.

Homework is given out, generally on a Friday and expected back on a Wednesday. Spellings are tested on a Friday. All children are expected to complete their homework and if it is late, they will complete during school time. A high standard of presentation is also expected in their homework and children will be asked to repeat if it is handed in to an unacceptable standard. A homework club is offered for KS1 & 2 children.

Reading 3 times a week as a minimum is also expected. There is a reading scheme throughout the school, however children can choose a free reader from the library if they are reading at Brown stage (reading age of 8-9 years). A reading record has to be signed at home to acknowledge reading has been completed at home. Parents who persistently do not read with their child will be challenged and a letter will be sent home reminding them of the schools policy and if need be a meeting will be held with the head teacher or deputy head teacher. As a school, we will do everything we can to support home learning.

We also expect children to access online home learning programmes independently, which support maths and english. All KS2 children have their own logins for Reading Plus, which is a differentiated online reading programme. In KS1, children have their own logins for Reading Eggs- an online programme which helps children to read. Year 3 & 4 children also have their own logins for Mathletics, with targeted and adaptive curriculum content, whereas Year 5 & 6 children access Maths Whizz. This is online maths tuition, tailored to meet the unique individual needs of every child.

A record of reading and homework is kept in each class. All children who complete ALL of the homework on time will be rewarded with a treat each term. This may be an in school or outside fun experience.

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

7. 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.

8. 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 15 minutes a week and daily reading
- Years 1 and 2 – approx 30 minutes a week and daily reading
- Years 3 and 4 – approx 45- 60 minutes a week and reading every other day, plus use of online programmes
- Years 5 and 6- approx 60-90 minutes a week and reading every other day, plus use of online programmes

If additional homework is required 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! Also help test your child on their spellings and times tables!

√ 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.

READING

We start the reading journey in nursery with a collection of wordless books for Lilac, to develop essential speaking and language skills our youngest children. This introduces them to the technical skills of handling and navigating a book. These books also encourage children to develop vocabulary and communication skills. Our reading scheme promotes gender equality and diversity with characters and stories that will inspire young readers of today

All children, especially our younger readers, are encouraged to read every night for at least five minutes and expected to talk about their book with an adult. 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 or a free reader book. 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 reading records 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 Reception and Year 1 - counting in 1s forward and backwards and starting to count in 2s to prepare them for learning 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 4 calculation questions a week to complete, these may be differentiated to suit your child's needs and will focus on the basic skills .