

MERCY Primary Draft HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale for review:

- We believe that homework supports, extends and consolidates the learning covered in the classroom while supporting children to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.
- In the light of Covid19 lockdowns and breaks in education, we feel class teaching time is more valuable than ever. We want every minute to count in our classrooms and battles over daily homework can take away from this time.
- We want to utilise our online platforms that track participation and give assessment scores on completion. This helps staff track home learning more effectively. (It also gives children and parents more opportunities to practice skills as often as needed)
- We want to help set online learning that will be of value if Covid lockdowns occur in future times or if children need to stay at home.
- We have listened to parents and pupils in our survey and aim to make homework more manageable and flexible for parents and family life.

Only 58% of our parents find homework is helpful

69.2% of parents feel that family life needs more flexible arrangements.

28.3% of parents feel written homework is needed every night.

This policy aims to:

- Raise achievement in reading; mental maths and spelling strategies.
- Ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Utilise ICT skills and technology as a learning tool.
- Ensure teachers, parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves and pupils.

The main purpose of homework is:

- To encourage pupils to develop the skill, confidence and motivation to study independently at home effectively.
- To consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed at school.
- To extend school learning through activities such as additional reading and research, thinking skills.
- To develop and sustain the involvement of parents in the management of their

child's learning.

- To explore the wide range of online resources for learning at home eg. Ed Shed, Education City, Letterjoin, Google Classroom.
- To maintain good channels of communication between home and school.
- To offer pupils the opportunity to extend their learning by including optional, additional challenges or open-ended tasks/questions.
- To consolidate spellings, number facts, times tables and learning home-works.

Homework at Mercy Primary - Key Principles:

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability. Parental choice of extension work is always available.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school balance.
- As the children progress through the school, the amount of homework may increase.
- Teachers incorporate homework into their weekly planning and ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.

Homework Guidelines for each Key Stage

Reading:

We believe that the most valuable homework activity is regular reading.

(Books My ON, library materials, or home reading).

Suggested reading times are 5-10 minutes in P1 increasing to at least 30 minutes by Year 6 & 7. There is an expectation that reading at home will happen daily (4-5 times a week minimum). It is important for parents/carers to read with children and to discuss books, pictures and stories, even when they are in Year 7.

Children's reading diaries are to be filled in and **signed by parents/carers daily**, after hearing children read or after your child has read independently.

Reading is tracked regularly with Star Reading assessments and progress monitored

Learning Homeworks:

Pupils will have learning homework's. Some learning should take place on most evenings: phonics, spellings, number facts and times table recall are essential and even with new technology quick recall and fact knowledge cannot be replaced. This can happen in the car, on the walk to school, while making dinner and can be completed through online activities and games.

Online Class Set Grammar or Mathematics Activity:

Each week we shall set activities for completion on Spellings/ Math Shed or Education City. You can choose to do them within any day of the week or even at the weekend. This homework will be tracked and provide assessment points on your child’s progress. Children can complete these more than once and in fact we encourage children to try again and improve on their personal best scores.

Sample child’s record of spelling and maths tasks recorded.

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Today
Spelling Shed	4	3	12	0	0	0	0
MathShed	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quiz Shed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

This is the record of set weekly homework’s directly related to class work

Pupil names	Games Played	Status	Correct	Speed	Difficulty	Total Score
	3	Larva (280pts)	93%	10.71 s	1.0000	209,932
		Current score: 280pts				
Attempted assignments/games	13	Royal Bee (1960pts)	84%	9.81 s	3.8462	3,174,960
		Current score: 1960pts				
Correct %	2	Larva (491pts)	68%	14.26 s	3.5000	122,566
		Current score: 491pts				
Teachers have all of this marking and results.	0	Egg (0pts)	0%	0 s	0.0000	0
		Current score: 0pts				
	8	Larva (430pts)	80%	11.63 s	1.0000	357,878

Optional Creative Learning:

Your child may choose any activity from the optional grid each week to do with you or independently. We aim to make these activities interesting and enjoyable.

The nature and content of homework set, and the amount of time needed to complete homework will vary from year to year and from child to child. We have produced a guide which can be found below, outlining what parents of children in each Key Stage can expect to be set for homework.

Homework in Foundation P1/P2:

AREA	TASK TYPE	WEEKLY TIME GUIDE
Reading	Reading Books (Library or set reading)	Every day
Phonics	High Frequency/Tricky words Sound books Phonic sounds Spelling Sounds P2	As needed set weekly
Other Areas of learning	4-5 different challenge activities linked to the current topic	Across a half term

Homework in Key Stage 1 – Years 3 and 4

AREA	TASK TYPE	WEEKLY TIME GUIDE
Reading	Reading at home	At least 15 minutes reading – 5 times a week
Grammar	A task linked to work completed in class that week Education City	One task per week
Spellings/phonics	One set of up to 10/15 spellings to learn – where appropriate. Linked to phonics phase Letter join/ Spelling Shed	One set per week – given on Monday for test on Friday – where appropriate
Maths Tables and Facts	Number facts/times tables Facts recall Maths Shed set activity	One set per week
Topic	4-5 different challenge activities linked to the current topic	Across a half term

Homework in Lower Key Stage 2 – Year 5

AREA	TASK TYPE	WEEKLY TIME GUIDE
Reading	Reading at home. A book review where appropriate	At least 20 minutes reading a day – 5 times a week
Spellings	One set of up to 20 spellings to learn – Ed Shed activity to practice and reinforce spellings	Weekly
Grammar	A set task linked to work completed in class weekly Grammar focus week Education City	Weekly
Maths Tables and facts	Maths focus set Maths Shed activity and times tables practice. Maths Shed.	Weekly
Topic	4-5 different challenge activities linked to the current topic	Half termly

Homework in Upper Key Stage 2 – Years 6 and 7

AREA	TASK TYPE	WEEKLY TIME GUIDE
Reading	Reading Books	At least 30 minutes reading a day – 5 times a week
Spellings	Spelling lists	Weekly
Grammar	Grammar work linked to weekly focus set task. Education City	Weekly
Maths	Maths focus Set activity Maths Shed.	Weekly
Topic	4-5 different challenge activities linked to the current topic	Half termly

Please Note: January of Year 6 to November Year 7, children who opt to prepare for transfer Test will have additional daily homework and Practice Test papers to complete at home as well as two additional hours in school each week. This is a significant level of work.

This is an example of how topic homework will be presented.

Sample P4 Food Glorious Food

CREATE A MENU for a celebration lunch.	DESIGN A poster for a healthy food product.	FIGURE OUT Pick 8 food items at home. Read the labels and find how much sugar is in each one.	DRAW A design for a new flavour crisp packet or cereal box	PLAN A quiz about types of food for your family.
HEALTHY & ACTIVE Make an obstacle course or an exercise using some tins and boxes of food.	LIFE SKILLS Make a recipe/ toast and jam with help from an adult. Record instructions.	WRITE A diary entry for Flat Stanley. Read it out loud.	Talk about/ Make a chart showing pros and cons of being flat!	INVENT A cure for Flat Stanley.

We will have homework club 2 days per week to support learning in school.

Devices may be borrowed from school.

How you can help your child with their homework

Here is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it. The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- Providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support;
- Making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning;
- Encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set;
- Signing and dating your child's completed homework to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts;
- Ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time;
- Checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- Visits to libraries, museums etc.;
- Cooking with them;
- Playing games e.g. board games, cards, ball games;
- Watching informative TV programmes together;
- Providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, printing etc.;
- Gardening and growing plants;
- Using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use);
- Attending any school workshops that may be on offer designed to enable Parents/Carers to support their child's learning at home;
- Talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning and how they have been learning.

Remember:

Homework is about reinforcing, practising and confidence building ...

Enthusing your child about undertaking homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance. Make it fun!

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