



MOSSCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Small school, big heart nurturing potential, inspiring confidence.”

Homework Policy

Mission statement: *‘aiming for excellence, striving for improvement’*

Rationale

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important as it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home the tasks covered in class, and helps them to work towards improving their skills. It is also an opportunity for parents to become involved in their child's learning, to support them, discuss and explore areas of learning together promoting discussion and shared experiences. It also helps children and young people to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and in their adult life.

Homework activities are an important part of our home/ school partnership.

For homework to have an impact on children's learning, it needs to be planned in advance and have an allocated, timetabled slot in the curriculum. This allows it to be managed effectively and contributes to the challenge of raising attainment.

Purpose

We aim to:

- develop children to enjoy learning and become life long learners
- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- ensure parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupils
- extend and support learning
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences
- ensure the individual needs of children are taken into account
- prepare children for transition from Year 6 into their secondary schools

Our approach to homework

We believe that homework should not be a 'chore' that creates tension and upset at home – that achieves nothing.

However, we do recognise the impact that regular practice and reinforcement of key skills, such as reading, spelling and timetables, brings to the pupils when they are back in the classroom.

As a result, our homework guidance does not follow a strict outlining of time to be spent on homework over a week but simply outlines the key areas that we would ask parents to support us in over each week.

In addition, we hope that our project style homework will inspire creativity and encourage parents to work with their child, over a longer period of time, to produce a project that can be shared in school within each half term and can be worked on at a steady pace when you have the time and the mood is right.

Roles and responsibilities

The role of teachers

- To clearly communicate homework expectations to children and parents
- To set appropriately differentiated homework, monitor completion of homework and provide some form of feedback to children and parents.
- To provide opportunities for open-ended, practical and creative homework as well as weekly homework to practise key skills in literacy and numeracy.

The role of parents

- To provide encouragement and support for homework efforts
- To provide a comfortable, quiet homework area away from distractions
- To discuss with the class teacher if homework is becoming a difficulty for children or for parents.

The role of pupils

- To understand the homework that is set
- To ask for help from teachers and parents if necessary
- To attempt activities with maximum effort and to the best of their ability
- To return the homework to school at the agreed time

Homework programme

A programme of homework has been drawn up to ensure continuity and progression throughout school and consistency in the setting of homework. The programme has been developed in year group 'phases' based on the following principles-

- Reading is a necessary part of homework from reception to year 6, which should ideally be completed each day.
- There will be weekly homework set which encourages the reinforcement of, or development in, the basic skills of mathematics and language. This will be in the form of weekly spelling lists to learn and number bond or times table facts to learn.
- Each half term a project homework task will be set based on either a whole school theme or each individual year groups IPC unit of work for the term. This will give the children an opportunity to shine in their own

talents, strengths and learning styles. Teachers will consider the affordability of tasks that a range of subject areas are covered and the tasks are appropriate to the year group. Teachers will prepare a clear guidance sheet for parents when themed work is set.

- Teachers may also occasionally set extra homework tasks such as 'go and find out about ...', 'bring something from home that ...'. These types of activities enrich learning in the classroom and help make learning more meaningful for children.

The agreed homework programme for the year group phases are as follows:

Year Group	Homework
RECEPTION	Reception parents receive a weekly newsletter each week informing them what their child has done during the week and how they can support at home with various games, activities and visits. Children in Reception are expected to read at home on a regular basis and parents are encouraged to support learning the 'Key Words' and with phonics activities.
YEAR 1 & YEAR 2	Children are expected to read daily at home with an adult. Although it is not always possible to change children's books every day it is quite acceptable to read books from home or from the library to extend children's reading skills. Children will also receive an activity or spellings based on 'letters and sounds' this may include learning to spell a list of words. Creative topic based homework will also be given each half term where ideas for tasks to complete with the children will be suggested to parents. They will cover maths, literacy, science and topic work. Parents can choose to complete as many options as they wish. This is explained at our Meet the Teacher meetings.
YEAR 3 & 4	Children are expected to read daily, at least 10 minutes per night is recommended. In Year 3 and 4 there will be weekly times tables to learn and a weekly spelling based task. Creative topic based homework will also be given each half term where ideas for tasks to complete with the children will be suggested to parents. They will cover maths, literacy, science and topic work. Parents can choose to complete as many options as they wish. This is explained at our Meet the Teacher meetings.
YEAR 5 & 6	Children are expected to read daily for pleasure. In Year 5 and 6 a weekly maths or English task is also set. This may be spellings or a grammar based activity and in maths may be linked to times tables or learning other key facts e.g. measure conversions; equivalent fractions. Year 6 will have additional homework in the lead-up to end of key stage assessments in the form of maths and English revision. Creative topic based homework will also be given each half term where ideas for tasks to complete with the children will be suggested to parents. They will cover maths, literacy, science and topic work. Parents can choose to complete as many options as they wish. This is explained at our Meet the Teacher meetings.

At Mosscroft we actively encourage parents to assist their children with their homework. Although building independence is key, we acknowledge that the children need support to be heard read, learn their spellings and times tables and will benefit greatly from the assistance and guidance that you bring. For the topic based homework we really see this as a fabulous chance to share and work together on a creative project – clearly we are looking for the children to complete tasks, make models and present work etc – but we recognise the huge value that the input from the whole family can bring and the social skills and relationship building opportunities that can also be nurtured.

In addition, working together helps to develop parent's understanding of the type of work children are experiencing at school and their academic progress. However, should homework ever become a 'chore', adds unnecessary pressure to home life or is having a negative impact on children's positive attitude to learning then parents are advised not to persevere with the homework and to discuss this with the class teacher as soon as possible. It may be that, in consultation with the teacher, homework is not appropriate for a particular child at a particular stage of their learning and this is perfectly acceptable.

Marking Homework

Homework will be marked by the children, support staff or teachers. Teachers will monitor completed homework, celebrate successes and address any issues that may arise.

Project Homework is celebrated across the school in half termly Star Assemblies that celebrate the chosen 'Homework Heroes' from each class and the winning projects displayed in school.

Feedback to parents is important as they have often been involved in the tasks at home. Therefore, there must be a method of informing them of test results, homework and projects. Letters home, parents' meetings and reading records may be used for this purpose as will be invitations made to come into school and to view all topic work and celebrate in the Star Assembly.

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored on a regular basis by the Headteacher, who reports to governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy.

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if necessary.

Date: December 2017

Review date: December 2019