

Maxwell School

Homework Policy

At Maxwell School, homework is seen as an important aspect of the learning process involving **parents, teachers** and **children** in a partnership aimed at raising standards of achievement and maximising educational opportunity.

Aims

To aid each child's progress towards achieving his or her potential with the assistance, support and co-operation of parents and school staff.

By setting homework on a regular basis from the Foundation Stage upwards we also aim to prepare children for the demands and responsibility of secondary school and beyond.

Objectives

- To provide an enjoyable and purposeful supplement to class work.
- To provide opportunities for the child to practise what has been learnt in class, including the development of the basic skills e.g. tables, spellings, independent research skills etc.
- To provide practical opportunities for parents to become involved in the academic development of their child.
- To provide opportunities for the child to begin to take responsibility for organising their own workload.

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.

Good primary practice requires that we give credence to other developmental needs of the child. At Maxwell we appreciate the value of, and encourage a child's participation in extra curricular activities, (sport, music, dancing, drama, hobbies etc.) A well-balanced healthy child should be encouraged to develop their particular interests in their own time.

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 and all of us working within the school. Children are encouraged and

challenged in their learning as they aim for excellence. In order to achieve this goal, we at Maxwell work with parents and guardians as a partnership, expanding the curriculum, extending the curriculum into the home and building on experiences shared outside the school.

How **Staff** at Maxwell School support this policy:

- by providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in class;
- by ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability;
- by communicating with parents about homework through Parent Consultation evenings, reports, schools, newsletters etc. Keeping parents informed of children's progress, projects, topics to be studied and targets, which have been negotiated.
- When a child has failed to complete their homework on **two** or more consecutive occasions teachers will inform parents.

Pupils at Maxwell are expected to:

- tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude;
- take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected;
- be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school but are returned by the due date;
- contact their teacher for additional help if it is needed before the homework is due;
- take responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day. If it is not they maybe expected to complete during Golden Time or breaktimes.

How **Parents** can help to support children:

- provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members etc;
- provide encouragement and support to children when they require it;
- support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning;
- encourage their child and praise them when homework is completed;
- Giving due importance to non-written tasks such as **reading** and assisting in the learning of tables and weekly spellings.
- Keeping the staff informed of any changes in the child's circumstances, which may affect their learning.

• Guidelines

- Homework is given to provide positive reinforcement of work done in school. It is seen as a definite need and not as a time filler.

- Homework is considered an integral part of the curriculum. It enriches and consolidates, develops research skills and cultivates the mind to nurture the seeds of knowledge. Therefore **all** children are expected to complete **all** given homework.
- For this discipline to be of value it is important that work is handed in on time.
- The average amount of time spent on homework each evening, including non-written tasks such as reading, learning tables etc will vary but it is likely to be around:

STAGE	DURATION (MINUTES)
Foundation Stage / KS1	10-30
Years 3 & 4	20-30
Year 5	30-40
Year 6 and above	40-60

In order to allow for the child's other activities at least two nights will always be provided to complete homework. (except where the homework is class work that has been sent home because the child has not finished).

Parents will be advised at the beginning of the school year of the homework expectations of the class teacher. They will also be given details frequently during the school year by the classteacher (these may include eschools, school/home diaries or other methods). Teachers will always seek to answer parental queries about homework rapidly.

Homework tasks will be given by both English and Spanish Curriculum teachers.

Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1

Homework is likely to involve the practice of basic skills, such as **reading**, spellings and tables.

Each child is provided with a reading diary/record. Parents are invited to write comments in the diary about the child's enjoyment or interest in the reading book and the pages read. Reading is of vital importance so the school encourages all parents to spend time with their child enjoying reading together.

The school is able to advise parents on suitable reading books for their children.

There will be many times when your child will be asked to collect and bring in topic related items or books for contributions to projects. Specific research tasks may also be set occasionally.

Key Stage 2 and 3

There is an increase in the amount of homework given to children as they progress through the year groups and key stages. At different times during the school year children are likely to be given homework tasks from all curriculum areas but there will continue to be an emphasis on English and Maths activities.

Whilst children in these Key stages are older it is desirable that every child does some reading every night, sometimes as a 'sharing' experience with an adult. Reading material may include fiction, non-fiction, annuals, comics etc. it could either be a personal choice from books at home or set reading books from school. It is important that parents monitor children's reading.

Parents and children will be aware of homework and time for completion through the use of Home/School diaries and Google Classroom etc.

Research work or special project assignment will be set to reinforce topics being studied in school. These may well be ongoing over a longer period of time, emphasis will be on research skills, presentation, illustration, time management and punctuality.

The KS3 merit system will be used to aid the management of the completion of home work tasks.

The completion of these home study tasks are an important part of a child's school experience and hugely beneficial to their learning. Maxwell School expects that all children complete these tasks and will always have staff available to help pupils and parents should assistance be needed.

Written Oct 2016

Updated Oct 2018