

# MOORFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



## HOMEWORK POLICY

2020

## **Homework Policy**

‘Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education ...it helps pupils - in particular those from disadvantaged backgrounds - reach higher standards...allows more effective use to be made of lesson times and improves pupils’ study skills and attitudes towards learning.’ (1997 White Paper, Excellence in Schools)

### **Why Homework?**

The staff of Moorfields Primary School feel that the setting of homework -

- promotes the general policy and aims of the school
- forges a powerful link between home and school and between teachers and parents
- allows time for the practice, application and consolidation of what has been learnt in school
- encourages pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own and with parental support.
- sustains the involvement of parents/carers.
- trains pupils in planning and organising their work, developing self-discipline and good habits such as time management skills and basic study techniques which will support them in future education and beyond.
- fosters initiative

### **How Often?**

Formal homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.

There are exceptions:

If homework has been neglected/not completed during the week.

In senior classes some project or preparatory work can be undertaken at weekends.

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, children are given “homework off” as a reward for good behaviour or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

The expectation is that children will complete their homework. However, if for any reason children are unable to complete their homework, parents/carers should provide the class teacher with a note or contact the class teacher explaining why the homework has not been completed on the day the homework was due to be returned to school.

If a child has not made a suitable effort or presented untidy work, it may be completed during morning break-time, lunchtime or the following night.

If a child persistently fails to do homework parents will be informed and the work may have to be completed in school.

### **Content**

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks, however it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.

Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, and on occasions pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items, research and finishing work started in class.

Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart” is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned thus ensuring this work is done well.

There may be occasions when teachers wish to set children homework in other curricular areas such as The World Around Us, or ICT. In such circumstances the time allocation will be similar to that for Literacy and Numeracy.

## **Time**

The staff in Moorfields are sensitive to the demands which might reasonably be made on the time of primary children at home. The following is a guideline to the amount of time which the ‘average’ child should spend on homework, both oral and written. Most children are not average and depending on a child’s ability or speed of working, many are likely to take less or more time than others.

Primary One	15 minutes
Primary Two	20 minutes
Primary Three	20-30 minutes
Primary Four	30 minutes
Primary Five	30 minutes
Primary Six	45 minutes
Primary Seven	45-60 minutes

Where the child is continually spending an excessive amount of time on homework, the parent should arrange an appointment with the class teacher to discuss the situation.

## **The Responsibilities of Teachers, Pupils and Parents**

### Teachers will ensure that:

- Homework is an integral part of the curriculum and is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.
  - Homework is appropriate to the age, ability and circumstances of the pupils, taking into account special education needs.
  - They give clear and precise instructions to children as to what is required for homework.
  - They will insist that homework should be neat and tidy and that books and materials be kept clean.
  - Homework will be monitored regularly, marked before return, and appropriate feedback given.
  - They give recognition and praise for effort and work well done.
  - They have realistically high expectations of pupils completing homework.
  - They will not give homework during weekends or holidays. \*
- \*unless sitting the transfer test.

### Pupils will:

- Record and ensure their understanding of the homework tasks.

- Demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time doing the set tasks to the highest standard and handing the work back on time.
- Take appropriate care of homework resources.
- Seek help and support from the class teacher or another adult if necessary.

Parents will:

- Endeavour to provide pupils with a quiet, suitable space in which to complete homework tasks.
- Encourage and support their children by, for example, listening to reading and asking spellings and tables. Parents should not do homework for their children. If a child is genuinely unable to do his/her task after having made a reasonable effort, this may be explained in a letter to the child's teacher or a comment in the homework book or diary.
- Sign and monitor all homework.
- Contact the class teacher if there are concerns about a homework task.
- Adhere to the methods used in school, particularly in Numeracy.
- Display a positive attitude to homework and give praise and support where appropriate.

**Pupils with Special Educational Needs**

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Homework setting and completion will be monitored on a regular basis by Co-ordinators and the Principal. The implementation of this policy will be the responsibility of class teachers and, ultimately, the Principal and the Board of Governors of the school.