

Moorside Primary School



Homework Policy 2022 – 2024

Purpose, values and vision

Our Purpose

Moorside Primary is a school at the heart of our diverse community in the West End of Newcastle.

We pride ourselves in belonging to a caring school community where everyone is welcome.

We strive to deliver an outstanding education for all our children.

We help everyone to become caring and active citizens.

We encourage everyone to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Our Vision

We want everyone in our school to work together to make us as good as any school can be.

We want to create new opportunities for everyone to succeed.

We want to create a culture, which broadens all of our horizons.

We want everyone to be able to tackle the challenges we will face in an ever changing world.

We want all of our children to effectively engage with each other and with our community.

Our values

We all believe...

Our local community deserves a school they can be proud of.

We are a caring community where everyone is welcome.

We all value, respect and support each other.

Our community has the right to be safe and healthy.

Our children should have the chance to enjoy and be enthused by their time in our school.

We all agree...

Everyone will always try their best and take pride in all that they do.

Everyone will demonstrate good manners at all times.

Everyone will respect each other and show consideration.

Everyone will respect and care for our environment and resources.

Everyone will celebrate each other's successes and achievements.

Rationale

Homework allows children the opportunity to consolidate their learning outside of school, as well as helping to develop their skills of independence and self-reliance. It contributes to establishing the capacity for lifelong learning in children, and offers opportunities for actively involving Parents/Carers as partners in their children's learning.

- Homework is differentiated to meet the needs of individual children.
- Homework should be understood by children and Parents/Carers, and not be seen as an onerous task.
- Although homework is not compulsory it can be beneficial to children's learning.

Purpose

- To enable consolidation of knowledge, skills and concepts which have been introduced in lessons.
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding, particularly in English and maths.
- To develop the capacity of children to work independently, and to take increasing responsibility for their own learning.
- To provide opportunities for Parents/Carers and children to work together.
- To allow Parents/Carers to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.

Aims of this Policy

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give children the opportunity to extend their learning.
- To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education.
- Ensure a consistent approach to self-study.
- To make set homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school.
- Make expectations about homework clear to children and Parents/Carers.
- Provide opportunities for Parents/Carers and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school.

Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of Parents/Carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home-school learning, children are afforded the chance to practice skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests. Moreover, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for children to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

Principles

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- Teachers 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 should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant

Homework Tasks

Our curriculum homework is designed to build upon the concepts and skills that children have been learning across a range of subjects.

Listed below are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to regular review, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the children involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist children in the process of their academic development.

Early Years Foundation Stage

These may include:

- Reading books and common exceptional words.
- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes.
- Fine and gross motor activities including forming numbers and letters.
- Areas of learning overviews to develop key vocabulary and speaking and listening skills.

Year One and Year Two

These may include:

- Reading specific reading books and common exceptional words.
- Learning spellings.
- Learning number facts including learning times tables (in Year Two the x2, x5 and x10).
- Maths activities.
- Handwriting practise.
- Subject overviews to develop key vocabulary and speaking and listening skills.

Year Three and Year Four

These may include:

- Reading.
- Learning spellings.
- English activities.
- Maths activities.
- Handwriting practise.
- Subject overviews to develop key vocabulary and speaking and listening skills.
- Learning number facts including learning times tables (in Year 3 the x3, x4 and x8, Year 4 the x7 and x9).
- Reading comprehension activities.

Year Five and Year Six

These may include:

- Reading.
- Learning spellings.
- Handwriting practise.
- Reading comprehension activities.
- Subject overviews to develop key vocabulary and speaking and listening skills.
- Times Tables – revision of all (12 x 12).
- Maths activities including practising calculation strategies learned in class.

Role of the Head Teacher along with the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body

- To check compliance with the Policy.
- To meet and talk with Parents/Carers when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Measure the impact of successful implementation.

Expectations

- It is the expectation that all children will at least attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability.
- Dates for handing homework in are always made explicit by the class teacher.
- Children are expected to complete homework to the same high standards insisted on in class e.g. neat handwriting, accurate use of full stops and capital letters etc.
- Subject overviews and task sheets will be given to children alongside exercise books in which children can record their work.

As children progress towards Year Six they may often be given additional activities and this will also include SATs revision. It is expected that Parents/Carers encourage greater independence as children move into upper Key Stage Two.

How you can help your child with their homework

At Moorside Primary School we are very keen for Parents/Carers to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if Parents/Carers get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can manage by themselves. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning.

Below is a list of ways that you as a Parent/Carer can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort they have spent completing it.

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 their learning.
- Encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set.
- 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:

- Participating in visits to libraries, museums etc.
- Cooking with them at home.
- Taking your child swimming.
- Playing games, e.g. board games, cards and ball games.
- Watching informative TV programmes together.
- Providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.
- Gardening and growing plants.
- Using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use) talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning.

Homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building. It is important to enthuse your child about undertaking homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance.

We hope this guidance has provided helpful guidance about homework at Moorside Primary School. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Date reviewed	September 2022
Next review date	July 2024