

St Machan's Primary

Homework Policy



Revised and updated November 2013

Rationale:

As a school we recognise that a good, well-managed homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful, lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills, and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their child's education.

Purpose:

Homework is primarily the responsibility of the learner.

The school recognises several purposes of Homework.

Among these are to:

- Allow practice, reinforcement and consolidation of class work.
- Provide opportunities for individual work.
- Develop confidence and self-discipline.
- Train pupils in planning and organising their own time.
- Encourage ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Provide regular information on progress to parents.
- Provide opportunities for parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home/school dialogue.
- Provide a focus for parent/child interaction which can promote language and numeracy skills.

Every child is given homework unless a parent requests in writing that their child is not to have any. Homework should be of the same high standard of work expected in class. Every child should complete homework to the best of their ability but within the time allocation suggested.

Implementation:

In a normal week children should receive homework on **4 nights**.

Usually, weekends will be "Homework free" to allow families to relax from schoolwork.

The school encourages children to do homework **early** in the evening so they can relax before bedtime.

Ideally, homework time should be encouraged as an activity where parents can work in a supportive way with their children, never acting as judge or cross-examiner!

Good communication from teachers to parents is essential if difficulties with homework are to be avoided.

Teachers should have children note the homework task/s in their school diaries and give a clear description of what is expected.

At the upper stages teachers can set homework for the week with pupils having the choice of when to complete activities

School Diaries:

P1 - P7 pupils have all been issued with a school diary.

This is an important means of teacher / parent / pupil communication and a strong home/school link.

Homework tasks will be noted in the diary. Parents should sign the diary to show they are aware homework has been given and have encouraged their child to complete the set tasks.

They should be encouraged to write comments in the diary, which could be helpful. It is also useful if parents sign the homework itself to show they have seen it.

Time Allocation:

Children should receive a **moderate** amount of homework **regularly**, building from 5-10 minutes each evening at the P1 stage to a maximum of 30 -40 minutes at the P7 stage, depending on the activity.

If primary pupils are working hard during the day, hours of homework in the evening are not appropriate to their ages and stages of development.

Types of Homework:

A variety of homework tasks should be given throughout the week normally Monday to Friday.

Active homework - the P1 & P2 homework pack includes flashcards, games, number lines, ideas/prompt cards etc. Parents and children can choose from a selection of activities and practise through the week. Parents may hold on to the interactive resources from the pack over the weekend however to help with organisation the diary and reading book must be returned each day.

Regular homework reinforces work already taught in class, so no **new work** will be given. This kind of homework usually involves reading, handwriting, spelling, mathematics.

Occasional homework may involve for example -

- Watching the news
- Reading a newspaper article to help participation in class discussion
- Research with parent help, for topic work
- Drawing to increase observation skills and promote hand -eye co-ordination
- Questionnaires, or surveys which need input of information from home

This list is not exhausted!

Work not completed in class:

This should not be regarded by teachers as homework.

On occasions children will take home work which should have been completed in class.

This does not include children experiencing difficulties with work, only those who are capable of finishing work in the given time but have not applied themselves in class.

In co-operation with parents, we are letting children know it is much more satisfactory to complete work in school.

Parents have the right to know if their child is not giving of their best at school, as this will certainly hinder progress.

Children not completing homework:

If the normal means of encouraging co-operation fail, a request to meet with the parents should be made through the D.H.T. or H.T.