



MIS Homework Policy

Introduction

At MIS, we believe homework is an integral part of a child's education. It provides an opportunity for an effective partnership to be built between school and home and helps parents and carers understand the standards of work expected from their children. It also provides children with an opportunity to revise and consolidate learning done in school. Children gain confidence and self-discipline through studying on their own which prepares them for their transition to secondary school.

Aims of Policy

- To make clear the benefits homework brings our pupils
- To ensure consistency across all of MIS Primary in the amount and type of homework given
- To set in place expectations of homework each child is expected to complete each week

Purpose of Homework

- To reinforce classroom learning
- To promote an effective home/school partnership
- To develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future
- To promote pupils engagement with units of study through providing them a choice in how to complete homework tasks
- To raise achievement
- To encourage learning as a life-long process

Roles and Responsibilities

School

Class teachers are responsible for setting pupils homework each week. The homework they hand out should be appropriate to the level of the pupil so that they can access the homework without too much support. The homework should be based on something the pupil has or will be working on in class. Teachers have a responsibility to explain homework to pupils when they hand it out so that pupils understand what they have to do.

The teacher also has the responsibility to respond to pupils' homework and give brief feedback where necessary. They may also praise pupils' efforts where they see fit by using rewards in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Pupils take home levelled books appropriate to their reading level known as Stage Books. These books are for the pupil to read with their parents, carers or other family members in order to practise their reading skills and widen their reading range. Teachers have a responsibility to ensure that reading record books are checked on a regular basis (at least once a week) and to change the stage books accordingly so that pupils have fresh reading material to read at home.

Parents



Homework can play a vital role in the link between school and home as it helps parents to see what their child has been working on in the classroom. Therefore, we encourage parents to support their child in completing their homework. Although teachers explain the homework when they give it out, pupils may need their parents help to explain what they need to do or to show them an example to get them started. However, the teacher sets homework according to the level of the pupil and therefore children should be able to complete the majority of their homework independently. If a child finds their homework too difficult, or too easy, on a consistent basis, it is the parent's responsibility to report this to the class teacher who will make adjustments accordingly.

Parents and carers are also responsible for listening to their children reading and signing the Reading Record books. Pupils' stage books will only be changed when they have been signed, preferably with a comment or note saying that the child has completed the book.

Pupils

Pupils are responsible for ensuring they complete homework tasks on time and hand it into the teacher on the due date. This gives teachers time to review and mark the homework. Teachers try to give pupils the maximum amount of time possible for them to do their homework, leaving them a short window of time to mark and hand it back. Therefore, if homework is not handed in on time, teachers will not have time to review and mark the homework.

There may be times that pupils need to ask for further help to successfully complete homework tasks. In these cases, it is the responsibility of the child to ask their teacher, or another adult, for help.

Pupils are also responsible for taking care of their homework books and any sheets of homework the teacher may hand out. They are also responsible for bringing in their homework diaries each day and writing their homework into the diaries when given time by the teacher. Key stage 1 may have the work written in by a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) and the pupils are responsible for ensuring their homework diaries are readily available for them to do this.

Pupils also have a responsibility to take care of the Stage Books they take home and to ensure they bring in their Reading Records so that they may be checked or added to and their stage books changed.

General Homework Expectations

Early Years

No formal homework but children will have Stage Books to take home each week and may be given small pieces of homework such as sight words to learn or work related to the sound of the week. However, this homework is not compulsory.

Expectations in Year 1

One task a week, alternate Maths and Literacy as well as spellings and times tables. They will also have Stage Books to read. Year 1 will only be given times tables and spellings once the teacher feels the children are ready.

Expectations in Year 3 and 4

Two tasks a week, one Literacy and one Maths, plus spellings, reading three times a week and times tables.

Expectations in Year 5 and 6



Two or three tasks a week plus independent reading (if the child is ready), spellings and times tables. This will consist of one Literacy, one Maths and possibly a Topic or Science task. Year 6 may also be given grammar homework and may receive more homework in the run up to their final year exams.

Please note: homework should not create stress within the child's family. If parents or carers have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact their child's teacher to discuss them.

Homework Diaries

The children will each be given a homework diary which plays a key role in home/school communication. Both parents and teachers use these diaries, not only to keep track of the homework expectations, but also to send reminders. It should be brought into school EVERY day.

Writing Journals

This year, children will be given writing journals to encourage independent writing, improve their literacy skills and increase engagement. Children will take their writing journals to and from school every day. They will be expected to write in their journals once a week in Key Stage 1 and three times a week in Key Stage 2. They may be given a prompt (for example 'If you were a superhero, what would your super power be and why?') or they may just be asked to write about what they wish. Children are not expected to write lots: Key Stage 1 may be anything from a few words to a full page depending on the ability of the pupil. In Key Stage 2 it is up to the discretion of the teacher based on their knowledge of the individual pupil.

The key factor is enjoyment. If pupils enjoy their writing they are much more likely to write more and therefore to develop their literacy skills. Teachers should use their knowledge of their pupils to set tasks which will engage and excite them.

The journals are for free, unmarked writing which the teacher will simply comment on rather than mark. This may be a simple comment about the content of what the child has written or a follow-up question. This is to ensure the child has an audience for their writing but still feel they can express themselves freely. This can really help develop relationships between teachers and pupils as they come to learn more about each other through comments and writings in journals.

Homework Club

Homework club will take place once a week to support those children who struggle completing homework tasks at home. The club will take place at lunchtime and there will be a teacher and an LSA available to explain tasks and support children in completing them. This will be an invite only club. Pupils attending the Homework Club will be chosen by their teachers who recognise that they struggle to complete homework activities at home. These pupils MUST attend the homework club if they are chosen by their teachers to attend.

Homework from Specialist Subjects

Pupils may receive homework from those subjects taught by a teacher other than their main class teacher, namely Kiswahili, Music, French and ICT. This homework will be set by the teacher in order to consolidate or support children's learning in these subjects and therefore will be beneficial to them if they complete them. However, the homework for these subjects is not compulsory.

Holiday Homework



We understand that children, like us, need a much welcomed rest during the school holidays. However, we also know that some children prefer to keep up with their studies when school is closed and enjoy getting a head start on the next half-term's topic. Therefore, teachers will hand out holiday homework before each holiday. This homework will be project based and may include a number of options for your child to choose from in order to allow them to choose something that interests them.

The homework will generally be based on the child's upcoming topic in order to pique their interest in the topic and give them a base of knowledge with which to begin with. Therefore, it would be beneficial for pupils to complete holiday homework. However, we understand that during the holidays many families travel or are busy with other things and will not have time to complete the projects and so it is not compulsory for pupils to complete holiday homework.



Appendix 1: Homework Set for Each Year Group

Task	EYFS	Key Stage 1	Years 3 and 4	Year 5	Year 6
Reading	Daily	3 x a week	3 x a week	3 x a week	3 x a week
Times Tables	None	Once a week	Once a week	Once a week	Once a week
Spellings	None	5 - 10 per week	8 – 10 per week	8 – 10 per week	8 – 10 per week
Literacy	Occasional sight words, handwriting or sound of the week	Generally every other week	Once a week	Once a week	Once a week
Maths	Occasionally	Generally every other week	Once a week	Once a week	Once a week
Topic/Science	None	Occasionally	When required (guideline - twice a half-term)	Once a week	Once a week
Other Info	All homework other than reading is non-compulsory	Year 1 will receive spellings and times tables when they are deemed ready by their teacher			Amount of homework may increase in preparation for end of year exams