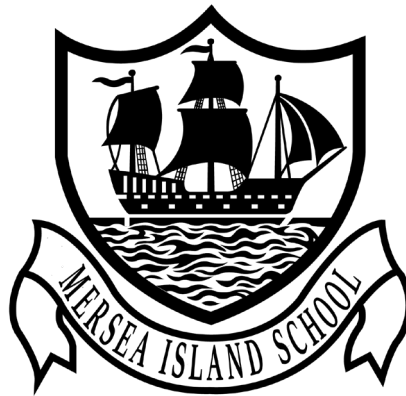




Homework Policy May 2024 Mersea Island School

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SCHOOL

Our Philosophy

At Mersea Island School we are building a community, at the heart of island life, which is founded on mutual respect, tolerance, resilience and honesty. All members of the school are expected to take responsibility to ensure everyone feels safe and valued. As a community we work to equip everyone for the demands and opportunities of education, work and life. We teach through an engaging, constantly evolving and creative curriculum to ensure learning is purposeful and enjoyable. Teachers have high expectations and pupils take an active role in moving their learning forward by having a clear understanding of what they need to do next to achieve their targets.

Rationale

Homework is considered to be anything a child does, outside of the normal school day, which contributes to their learning. At Mersea Island School homework encompasses a whole variety of activities, it is guided by teachers and parents, working in partnership to support a child's learning. Children benefit greatly from being encouraged to continue their learning beyond the classroom environment. One of our school aims is for each child to develop as an independent learner and completing homework is one way in which children can rehearse these skills.

We understand the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, so too is the nurturing of creativity and talent. Homework should not prevent a child from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and activities which play an important part in the lives of many children. We believe children develop their skills, interest and talents best when they are encouraged to make maximum use of all their experiences and the opportunities available to them.

Aims and objectives

To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.

To consolidate, reinforce and extend learning which has taken place in school.

To help pupils develop as independent learners.

To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.

To help children develop good organisational skills and work habits for the future.

To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.

Guiding principles

Homework should reinforce or be linked to work completed in class.

Pupils should be given clear instructions so they understand what is expected of them.

A reasonable amount of time will be given for homework to be completed.

Reading records will be used for parents to sign when reading and times tables homework has been completed.
Homework books will be used by children to complete the weekly homework task.

The role of the school is to:

Ensure homework is set.
Make pupils and parents/carers aware of the school's expectations for homework.
Ensure work is matched to the different abilities of pupils.
Ensure pupils have a clear understanding of the purpose of the task being undertaken.
Give value to homework and give regular quality feedback to the pupil.
Encourage pupils to develop positive attitudes towards learning beyond the classroom setting.

The role of parents/carers is to:

Ensure children have a quiet place in which to complete homework.
Support children where necessary and give encouragement to complete homework on time.
Sign the reading record when a child has completed their reading and times tables homework.
Contact the class teacher if there are any concerns regarding homework.
Nurture independence and work collaboratively with the school to ensure children take responsibility for not completing their homework, when all of the above support and opportunities have been in place.

The role of pupils is to:

Learn to develop, retain and apply their knowledge, skills and understanding.
Develop good organisational and independent working skills.
Complete homework on time and to the expected standard.

Expectations

Year Group	Type of homework	Frequency/timing guide
Early Years	Reading, phonics, common exception words, number recognition, letter formation	Minimum 10 minutes 4 times a week.
Years 1 & 2	Reading, phonics, common exception words Times tables (Year 2) ,	Minimum 4 times a week.

KS2	Reading	Minimum 4 times a week.
	Times tables	
	A weekly extended task in either maths or English (alternating)	Approx 20 minutes.
Year 6 pupils	In preparation for secondary school, Year 6 pupils may be asked to complete additional tasks from time to time.	Approx 20 minutes

Reading

At Mersea Island School our expectation is that all pupils should read at a minimum of 4 times a week, preferably to an adult. Parents are asked to sign their child's Reading Record, the child is rewarded with a ship token for exceeding the minimum amount. It is important that pupils who have not yet begun to read should be able to enjoy sharing a book with an adult, this could include discussion about the pictures, asking the child to retell the story in their own words or simply them enjoying listening to you telling the story. As pupils progress, reading homework may include reading aloud to an adult, or discussing key questions about a book the child is reading e.g. What might happen next? Why is a character behaving in a certain way? How has the author developed a particular feeling / atmosphere? There may also be some reading comprehension activities set from time to time.

Learning Times Tables

All pupils are expected to learn times tables facts, pupils will be set 'target tables' to learn, to secure their understanding of all facts to 12 x 12 by Year Four. Resources to help support with this learning can be found on half termly Parent Overviews.

Maths and English

Pupils in Key Stage 2 are set homework on a weekly basis and this is alternated between English and maths. This is related to the learning that has taken place in school. This will be set on a Tuesday and due in on the following Monday. This is to give pupils plenty of time to complete the task.

Nurturing independence and encouraging children to take responsibility

In preparation for secondary school, pupils in Years 5 and 6 are expected to show increased independence and ownership of homework tasks. We expect the pupils to take responsibility for their homework and complete it in good time.

Pupils will be given a reasonable time to complete homework in order to accommodate regular attendance at after school clubs and family commitments. No child should spend hours completing a homework task designed to be completed within half an hour. If a child is consistently struggling to complete homework within the 'suggested time' we ask parents/carers to contact their child's class teacher. We are happy to support any child who is experiencing difficulty in completing homework.

Pupils are expected to complete all work to the best of their ability.

If pupils fail to complete their homework, they will be asked to complete it during school time, either at play or lunchtime under the supervision and guidance of a member of staff.

Working together

We are grateful for the support parents and other adults can give in helping children to complete homework successfully. Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. Establishing positive attitudes towards learning and good work habits from an early age is highly beneficial in helping children achieve their best. We recognise that from time to time, for a number of reasons, pupils may find it a challenge to complete homework. We ask for parent's support in communicating any concerns, as quickly as possible, to the class teacher, so that any issues can be addressed promptly.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

Assessment, Marking and Feedback Policy, Home/School Agreement, Equalities Policy, SEND Policy, Disadvantaged Policy.

This policy was reviewed and revised on: 7th May 2024

By: Miss S Poole & Mrs T Wright (DHT and HT)

Renewal date: May 2026

