

Mereside Primary Academy

Homework Policy 2021 - 2022



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Electronic copies of this plan are available from	Mereside Primary Academy, Blackpool
Hard copies of this plan are available from	Mereside Primary Academy, Blackpool
Date of next review	September 2022 (or as required)
Person Responsible for Review	Samantha Upton



Homework Policy

At Mereside Primary Academy we provide homework to enable our children to practice and rehearse core skills. We have a strong commitment to parental involvement and embedding key skills and see homework as one way of developing this.

Why do we have homework?

- It helps to embed core skills and knowledge that will support each child's learning both in school now but also in the future
- It is the perfect chance for a child to have some one-to-one time with an adult at home
- It prepares the children for future learning and gives confidence to succeed
- Rehearsing key skills such as reading, times tables, spellings are fundamental in school. Homework is a great opportunity to rehearse these further
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands at high school and in life.

Homework at Mereside

Whilst we support all of the above reasons, Mereside is not a school at which homework dominates home life. We believe that homework should be manageable for all concerned and if it becomes a burden it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We hope that children are motivated by our positive incentives, e.g. our traffic light system to celebrate the reader of the month, our homework treat times.

Children will not be in trouble if they fail to complete a task, however, a discreet homework register is kept and if a child consistently fails to complete the set tasks this is discussed with the child and parents. If a child loses a reading book, there will be a charge for this.

A homework club is operational in school if parents prefer for them to complete some tasks in school. This is run by the teaching staff and is built into our after-school provision.

Our routines and expectations

Broadly speaking these are our current expectations...

Early Years – Sharing books, learning letter sounds and phonic cards. All children, when ready will be issued with a book without words before moving on to a book with words. Book work should be completed daily.

KS1 – Phonics cards and games, daily reading, weekly spellings

SERF – Daily reading, weekly spelling and SEMH intervention work

KS2 – Daily reading, weekly spellings, weekly times tables (Year 3 & 4) weekly lexia/sumdog/TTR/spelling shed time allocated.

In the lead up to national testing, children will be given additional revision work, with the focus again to embed learning and the key skills required.

Our additional needs such as handwriting practise may require some specific tasks to be sent home to support the individual child. Again, if this is needed this will be discussed with parents prior to the work being sent home.

We are aware that a small number of parents would like a greater amount of homework than what we provide as a school and wish for more written work relating to specific topics in Maths and Literacy. As a school we believe that a focus on the key skills is paramount but if you wish for your child to have access to further work school will provide you, free of charge, with a book which is relevant for your child's year. Please note that this is to be kept at home and dipped into throughout the academic year as the parent/guardian sees fit. It is not to be brought back into school.

If you take a holiday during term time, something which we actively discourage as a school, parents may not request work from the teacher.

Please note, it is our policy NOT to give homework over the school holidays. The only exception will be where the parent and teacher agree that the extra work would be beneficial. During the holidays we encourage instead that our children spend time making memories and having experiences with their own friends and families.

If you have any questions or concerns over homework, please contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to support.