



Manor Primary School: Homework policy

Approved by Governors: May 2021

To be reviewed: June 2023

Research evidence on the benefits of homework for primary school children is inconclusive. The benefit depends on aspects such as the parental skills and ability to support, the child's attitude to learning when they get home after a long day at school, the anxiety levels that can be caused by homework deadlines, the appropriateness of each piece of work set for each child etc. Homework also has the potential to create unmanageable workload for busy teachers, adversely affecting the time they have to prepare and mark quality learning in the classroom. Because of this, Manor Primary School take the stance that homework is not compulsory and needs to not unduly add to teacher workload. The mental health and wellbeing of children and staff will always come first before added undue pressure with potentially insignificant benefits.

We do though believe that there is definitely a place for homework and that there are potential huge benefits when managed wisely. Homework can allow parents and children to work together in close partnership with the school; it can allow practice and consolidation of learning happening in school; it can allow children to experience first-hand aspects of learning not always possible in school because of time or resources; it can allow children to explore concepts further and share this with their families; it can allow pre-learning before a topic is started; it can help to develop retention of learning; it can create good habits ready for later education in Key Stage 3 and beyond where evidence of positive impact of homework is stronger.

At Manor our main form of homework for Key Stage 1 and 2 is a menu of activities that is sent home in a homework book and put on the website or Google Classroom for each topic either termly or half termly. The menu will involve a range of activities linked to the learning planned for in school from a range of curriculum areas. The activities will usually be open ended and don't require resources beyond what would be found in most homes. The parents and child can choose an activity each week of the half term to fit in with their family life. There are one or two 'wildcard' sections that can be selected when they are unable to complete an activity because of a family event or where they wish to do their own activity. At the end of a half term the homework book is returned to school for the teacher to mark. As the work is rarely new learning and is often completed with adult support anyway, a positive stamp, tick or award of house points for example, is usually enough to reward the child's efforts, but no sanction is given if families choose not to do the homework.

In addition to this children have access to a home reading book at all times. Ideally children should aim to read at home at least 5 times a week. This may be reading independently, reading to an adult or being read to by an adult and discussing the themes and language used in a text

where appropriate depending on age and ability. We aim to encourage a love of reading and sharing a book at bedtime is an ideal way to foster this.

There may also be weekly spellings based around a spelling pattern in Key Stage 1 and 2 and there may be times tables to learn in Key Stage 2. In the period leading up to the SATS in Year 6 children may be asked to complete weekly revision activities rather than or as well as completing the homework grid activities. These tasks will often be set on Google Classroom and can be 'turned in' on the system to show the teacher when completed.

Early Years children are not expected to do 'homework'. They will be sent a 'suggested activity' that they may enjoy completing to support their learning in school but there is no compulsion to do it as this could be counter-productive. We want children to want to learn from the beginning.

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 are encouraged to make some contribution towards their set home learning task each week. However, there is no set expectation for the minimum or maximum a child should complete. As an approximate guideline we believe homework should take no more than 20 minutes for a key stage 1 pupil and no more than 30-60 minutes for a key stage 2 pupil dependent on the task set. After all, home learning should never take away from the valuable family time and experiences that the children receive at home.

Children may complete homework in a range of media such as, on word-processors, slide-shows, through drawings or voice recordings.

If parents have any concerns about their child's homework at any point the class teacher is the first point of call. Should further clarification be required the head-teacher is the next person to contact.

At Manor we pride ourselves in having a dyslexia friendly environment. Homework will be presented in dyslexia friendly font on coloured paper where requested.

If pupils have difficulty accessing their written homework, staff will be happy to support them wherever possible.