



**CHRISTIAN MALFORD**  
Church of England Primary School

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Challenge **M**otivate **S**ucceed

# **CHRISTIAN MALFORD, SEAGRY AND SOMERFORDS' WALTER POWELL PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

**Approved by:** Local Board

**Adopted:** 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Due for review:** May 2017

## **Definition**

Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers (DfE document, Homework Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools).

## **Statement of purpose**

The purposes of this policy are as follows:

- to provide specific guidelines on homework for teachers, parents and pupils
- to help promote continuity and consistency with homework practices throughout our schools
- to help promote and foster positive attitudes/experiences about homework
- to help new teachers/parents/pupils adjust to homework practices at our schools
- to help increase the level of communication between home and school, especially as it relates to home assignments.

## **Philosophy**

Homework provides students with opportunities to apply learning and experience necessary practice. It is also designed to develop a certain amount of independence amongst pupils and to provide an opportunity for them to take personal responsibility for their own achievement.

Homework can be used for the following reasons:

- to reinforce school activities
- to extend/broaden school activities
- to provide drill/practice for specific skills
- to provide parents with an opportunity to become involved in the child's learning.
- to promote/foster regular study habits in children.

This being stated, however, at Christian Malford, Seagry and Somerford's Walter Powell CE Primary Schools we fully realise that homework activities are but one source of learning experiences for the children outside of the school day. The extra-curricular involvement (both within and outside school) of pupils is high. Each of these activities (e.g. Brownies, Beavers, Cubs, swimming, music, gymnastics etc.) provides children with educational experiences to enhance their growth and educational development. In addition, societal influences on children must be taken into consideration. Teachers and parents/ carers alike must be aware of the high levels of stress many children deal with on a daily basis. Homework tasks must be assigned with this in mind. Finally teachers fully realise the uniqueness of each child in the school and his/her needs. Whereas the guidelines are based on the "average" child, individual differences amongst children must be taken into consideration by parents/ carers and teachers. Exceptions to these guidelines, therefore, must be expected when dealing with children of special needs. The importance of clear and concise communication between home and school cannot be over-emphasised, especially in these situations.

### **GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS**

- Homework should be assigned with specific instructional purposes and related to the classroom activities, themes, objectives etc.
- Homework tasks should be appropriate to pupil's level of achievement and individual differences in ability must be considered. Expectations for homework tasks must then be adapted accordingly.
- Teachers should be aware of factors such as extra-curricular activities, home/family support and children's interest in assigning tasks.
- All tasks should be explained clearly, keeping in mind the varying ability levels of children within a class. Whenever applicable, concise written instructions would ensure parents have a clear understanding of the tasks involved.
- New concepts should never be introduced as homework tasks.

#### **General time allotments per school night**

Years 1 and 2	1 hour/week	Reading, spelling, other literacy and number work
Years 3 and 4	1½ hours a week	Literacy and numeracy work with occasional assignments in other subjects
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes a day. 2½ hours a week	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum

Reading can, of course, be done as homework. When the homework activity is something other than reading, children should be encouraged to read on their own or with others – for at least twenty minutes (less for KS1).

*N.B. These allotments are based on school nights (i.e. Monday to Friday)*

Teachers should be flexible in these assignments. Children should not be required to complete the maximum amount of time each school night.

Most homework should be assigned Monday to Friday with limited amounts assigned specifically for the weekend. When homework assignments are consistently not being completed, an appropriate plan of action should be developed between the pupil, parent and teacher. This plan should be appropriate to the child's needs and home influences. Teachers can avoid increasing the stress load of pupils in this situation by:

- *praising all efforts of the pupil. (the completion of a portion of an assignment should be recognised)*
- *talking with and listening to the child. There may be legitimate reasons why the tasks haven't been completed*
- *avoiding overload by not assigning more than one night's tasks to be completed in one night; being flexible.*

Time should be made each day for pupils to record homework tasks and prepare materials for homework assignments. When two or more teachers are involved, consistent routines for recording homework are essential.

Pupils need to be aware of the expectations of all teachers involved.

## **GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS**

### **General Time allotments Per School Night**

Years 1 and 2	1 hour/week	Reading, spelling, other literacy and number work
Years 3 and 4	1½ hours a week	Literacy and numeracy work with occasional assignments in other subjects
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes a day. 2½ hours a week	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum

(These allotments are in line with Government guidelines.)

Reading can, of course, be done as homework. When the homework activity is something other than reading, children should be encouraged to read on their own or with others – for at least twenty minutes (less for KS1).

N.B. These allotments are based on school nights (i.e. Monday to Friday).

- Most homework will be assigned Monday to Wednesday. Homework should be returned to the class teacher by the following Monday.
- Homework is assigned to children based on specific instructional purposes related to classroom activities/themes/objectives. Homework tasks will be appropriate to your child's level of achievement.

Homework tasks vary from school to school and from term to term. Reading, spelling practice and times tables learning are all part of the time allocation. In addition, other homework tasks may be set. These are notified in our termly class newsletters which are published on each of the school's website.

Some typical examples of homework are: reading comprehension, maths worksheets, learning lines for performances/church services, project/topic work or computer research.

### **Helpful hints for parents**

- Check your child's Home/School/Contact book each evening to ensure you see what your child's tasks are and when they are due.
- Try to encourage a regular homework routine. Set a time suitable for both you and your child for the completion of homework tasks. Structure the study time so that she/he knows how much study time you expect. Help older children to develop a regular study schedule.
- Choose a quiet, well-lit place for your child to work. To help foster concentration, avoid working near the television, telephone, computer etc.
- Don't take over your child's tasks. Oversee assignments, ask questions, offer suggestions but avoid doing the research, writing the solutions, telling him/her what to do. Building independence and responsibility is crucial to a child's academic growth. Let your child know that homework is his/her job. Tell him/her you can help but you won't do the work!
- Praise all your child's efforts!!
- Be positive about the task at hand. Avoid negative comments that may affect your

child's attitude towards school or homework tasks. Talk to your child's teacher if you have a question or concern.

- If your child has a good reason for not completing the homework task, send a short note to the teacher to explain. (Teachers are understanding!)

### **Helpful hints for primary children**

- Make sure you have the things you need before you leave the classroom.
- Make sure you listen to your teacher so you know what you have to do.
- Find a quiet place in your home to do your work tasks. Make sure there is a lot of light so you can see what you are doing. Try to do your tasks away from the television.
- Put together a box or container of things you will need to do your homework tasks e.g. Pencil, pen, coloured pencils, rubber, sharpener, and ruler.
- Put all the materials back into the box when you are finished. Keep this box in a safe place away from younger brothers or sisters.
- Get any homework signed if it needs to be signed.
- Put your books back into your book bag when you are finished.
- Hand in your books, work etc. to your teacher in the morning.

### **Policy review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Joint Local Board.

This policy was agreed by the Joint Local Board, Executive Principal and Staff at Christian Malford, Seagry and Somerford's Walter Powell CE Primary Schools on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and will be reviewed again by May 2017.

Signed ..... Chair of the Local Board