

# MIS Lower School – Homework Policy



*“Well organised homework can play a vital role in raising standards of achievement.”*

DCFS Standards Website

This policy is based on the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn. While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of homework, a few feel that we do not set enough homework and others feel that there is too much! The amount and type of homework set is at a level which staff feel is reasonable

and in line with previous Department for Education guidelines.

## Guidelines for Homework Activities and Timing in the Lower School Year Groups

YEAR GROUP	HOMEWORK SET AND SUGGESTED TIME ALLOCATION (Some parents may wish to spend more than the suggested time but this is personal preference rather than necessity)
Year 1 (up to 1hr a week in addition to daily reading and word walls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Children should read for at least 5 minutes every weeknight. This can be a reading book or library book that is sent home weekly</li> <li>➤ Word walls for 5 minutes daily</li> <li>➤ Weekly phonic work should be practiced regularly</li> <li>➤ Regular maths games and activities with your children</li> <li>➤ Lots of talking with your child</li> </ul>
Year 2 (1hr a week in addition to daily reading and word walls or spelling lists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Children should read for at least 10 minutes every weeknight. This can be a reading book or library book that is sent home weekly</li> <li>➤ Word walls or spelling lists for 10 minutes daily</li> <li>➤ Handwriting for 15 minutes weekly</li> <li>➤ Numeracy, Science or Topic activities sent on a rotation basis, approximately 45 minutes per week</li> <li>➤ Lots of talking with your child</li> </ul>
Year 3 (1hr 30 mins a wk in addition to daily reading and spelling lists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Children should read for at least 15 minutes every weeknight. This can be a reading book or library book that is sent home weekly</li> <li>➤ Spelling lists for 10 minutes daily</li> <li>➤ Handwriting for 15 minutes weekly</li> <li>➤ Times tables practice – 15minutes</li> <li>➤ Numeracy, Science or Topic activities sent on a rotation basis, approximately 1 hour per week</li> <li>➤ Lots of talking with your child</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Assigned activities to be changed weekly</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects to be completed with parents/adult support</li> <li>2. Websites – activities to be completed on the computer with adult supervision/support</li> <li>3. Research – work with parents/adult support</li> <li>4. Aural Activities – learning songs/poems/discussion topics/practicing skills</li> <li>5. Consolidation Worksheets – recorded work that needs to be completed by child, returned to school, marked and then returned home for parents to keep</li> </ol>	

## **Why is homework important?**

- It consolidates and extends the work children have covered in school
- It helps to inform parents about school work and allows the opportunity for parents to offer support
- It is a valuable life skill and develops good work habits for secondary school and future employment
- It potentially develops interest and understanding, raising achievement

## **What if I think my child should do lots more homework?**

We would firstly like to encourage parents to ensure children enjoy being children and allow time for playing, going on visits, talking with family members and going to clubs outside of school. These activities, as you know, are really important for developing an emotionally stable and rounded child with the skills needed for life.

If you do still feel that you wish your child to complete more work at home we suggest several optional extras!

- ❑ Spend more than the suggested time on the weekly homework set
- ❑ There are a plethora of activities available to children on the internet
- ❑ There are plenty of educational activity books available commercially that you may like your children to complete. These are normally targeted as specific year groups or age groups.

## **Feedback on your child's homework**

The children need to know how well they have done and what they could do better. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work. If a child has difficulties with a piece of homework, they should discuss it with their teacher or you might wish to discuss the problem via the home/school communication book

## **Should I help my child with homework?**

Homework allows you to see what your children are doing and to support their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education.

We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved - as long as they do not take over too much! If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher. They will be pleased to see you and will help you to get the balance right.

## **I am taking my child on holiday during term time. Can the teacher send homework to be completed while we are away?**

We strongly advise that you **do not** take your child out of school during school time. We will not supply additional homework for this time as the teachers are already preparing planning, resources and homework for children in school.

## TOP TEN TIPS FOR PARENTS WHEN APPROACHING HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
  - *You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.*
  - *Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "you're clever".*
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.
3. Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc.
  - *Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example and understand what they mean. Encourage your child to speak in sentences.*
4. Visit museums and other places you think your child might find interesting.
  - *Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.*
5. If your child likes watching television, watch it together sometimes and talk about the events and different characters. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will gain a lot from the discussion.
6. Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can complete homework tasks.
7. Try to set time aside to support your child's homework activities whilst also encouraging independence when appropriate.
8. Try to help your child to recognise the interesting and creative aspects of homework.
9. Help your child to see the importance of homework and remind your child to complete and hand in homework on time.
10. Homework is not set to cause stress and anxiety for you or your child. It is an organised piece of work that is given for consolidation purposes and to engage you in your child's education. Have fun together!

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### MIS Lower School Homework Agreement (Children in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3)

Homework activities that are given to children are simple, fun and challenging, helping the children to learn important skills in an enjoyable and interesting way.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and support the homework policy and recognise the important part it plays in my child's educational development. I will support my child on a weekly basis during term time to ensure the completion of all homework activities.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian) Date \_\_\_\_\_