



# **Maharishi School Homework Policy**

(May 2018)

## **PRIMARY PHASE**

At Maharishi School, we define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. We have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

### **Why give homework?**

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of home environment and resources and provides the chance for some one-to-one parent-child time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school.

### **Homework at our school**

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, Maharishi School is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

### **Our routines and expectations**

All classes give out weekly homework on a specific day, decided by the class teacher. If it is a piece that needs handing in, it is expected to be returned by the day specified by the class teacher.

The work sent home will be to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding that the children have acquired in class. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills.

There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected.

### **Broadly speaking these are our current expectations:**

- Reception – daily reading, learning key words and a home learning journey to share weekend news or a homework challenge, to be done alongside your child.
- Year 1 - daily reading and spellings.
- Year 2 – daily reading, weekly times tables (for a weekly test), spellings and weekly homework that alternates between maths and English.
- Years 3 - daily reading, weekly times tables (for a weekly test), spellings and weekly homework that alternates between maths and English.
- Year 4 – daily reading, weekly times tables (for a weekly test), spellings and 2 longer tasks each week - English and maths
- Years 5 and 6 - daily reading, weekly times tables (for a weekly test), spellings and 2 longer tasks each week - English and maths.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or pen.

### **What to do if you have concerns**

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please talk with Miss Copplestone, the Deputy Head of the primary phase.

### **Term-time holidays**

If you take an unauthorised holiday during term-time, something which we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the school. In exceptional circumstances, discretion may be used; however, this would not be the norm.

## **SECONDARY PHASE**

At Maharishi School, we define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. We have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

### **Why give homework?**

- To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work independently; an essential skill for college, university and adult life;
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding;
- To extend school learning;
- To enable pupils to devote time to particular demands such as GCSE or internal assessment preparation;
- To support the home/school relationship

### **The amount of homework**

The school has a fixed homework timetable with time allocated for different subject on different days. Pupils will need to learn to manage their time so that they complete their homework on time and to a good standard.

We suggest that pupils spend the following amount of time on each subject's homework:

- Year 7: up to 40 mins
- Year 8: up to 50 mins
- Year 9: up to 60 mins
- Year 10: up to 70 mins
- Year 11: up to 90 mins

Homework will be differentiated where necessary to take into account individual needs.

### **Types of homework**

Homework might include such things as:

- Written assignments
- Consolidation activities
- Preparation for formal and informal presentation
- Reading in preparation for a lesson

- Selecting and retrieving information/researching a project
- Reading a book or prescribed text
- Conducting background research
- Developing an awareness and understanding of current affairs
- Producing art/photography work or updating sketch books
- Using websites to aid revision or learning

### **Organisation of homework**

All pupils have a homework diary which they are given at the start of each academic year. All homework tasks should be recorded in these diaries. If details of homework are on Google Classroom, pupils must write 'See Google Classroom' and the name of the subject. If no homework is given, pupils must write 'No homework' and the name of the subject.

Form tutors will check and sign pupils' diaries on a weekly basis. Parents should check and sign their child's diary each weekend in preparation for the weekly form check.

### **Non-completion of homework**

If a pupil does not hand in two homeworks in a week, parents will be informed, by email on Friday afternoon, that the pupil must attend Homework Catch-up/Revision Club each lunchtime during the following week from 1:10 - 1:35 Mon-Thu and 12.25 - 1:00 on Fridays. If a pupil usually goes out for lunch, this privilege will be revoked for this week and the pupil must bring in a packed lunch.

If a pupil regularly misses one homework each week, the above non-completion procedures may apply.

If a pupil continually fails to hand in homework, parents may be asked to attend a meeting with the Deputy Head and/or the Headteacher.

### **School's responsibilities**

The subject teacher is responsible for setting appropriate homework and marking it regularly. Teachers will provide feedback on how well pupils have completed the tasks and will give details of how to improve. There may be occasions where it is more appropriate to mark a piece of homework together in class in order for whole class evaluation and feedback to take place. Teachers should check that pupils are recording homework in their diaries.

The homework timetable is set at the start of the school year, taking into account different subject requirements, in order to allow for homework to be spaced evenly throughout the week as much as possible. This allows pupils to plan their time, participate in out-of-school activities if they wish and still be able to complete their homework on time and to an acceptable standard.

### **Parents'/Carers' role in homework**

Parents and carers should support pupils with their homework, but accept that their role will become less and less important as pupils become more responsible and independent.

Parents and carers should provide a reasonable space where pupils can work or encourage their child to make use of the daily Homework/Revision Club in school.

Parents and carers should encourage their child to meet homework deadlines.

Parents and carers should make it clear to their child that they value homework and support school in explaining how it can help their child to progress.

### **Term-time holidays**

If you take an unauthorised holiday during term-time, something which we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the school. In exceptional circumstances, discretion may be used; however, this would not be the norm.

### **Pupils' responsibilities**

Pupils should always have their homework diaries with them.

Pupils should always record the homework set giving full details of the task. If the teacher informs pupils that the homework is on Google Classroom, pupils must write 'See Google Classroom' and the name of the subject. If no homework is given, pupils must write 'No homework' and the name of the subject.

Pupils must meet the deadlines set for each homework task.

If pupils are absent, they are expected to find out what work has been missed and catch up. **Being absent on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.**

Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary, pupils should see the member of staff who set the homework for clarification/support.

Students should take pride in doing their best.

Homework Policy: Whatever we put our attention on will grow stronger in our life  
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