

MANOR HOUSE SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY (PREP)

Date of Issue: **November 2025**

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Responsibility: **Head of Prep**

Introduction

At Manor House School, we work hard to ensure that the home-school partnership is working to its fullest potential and that homework is clearly in place to consolidate and develop children's learning.

Aims

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Maths and English.
- Encourage pupils to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

The Nature of Homework

Homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. When expecting and setting homework, there are a number of points to consider:

- The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.

- Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older but this may also vary through the school year and be appropriate to the ability of the child.
- Homework should not cause undue stress to the pupil, family or the teacher.
- It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
- Homework should be set regularly from the Early Years through to Year 6.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact their child's form teacher. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

Supporting Homework

At Manor House School, we are keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that pupils are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved, as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for pupils to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's form teacher.

School Absence

- If children are absent due to illness, homework will not be sent home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parents will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances, the teacher should consult the Head of Prep School first.
- Homework will not normally be set when parents take holidays in term time.

Homework Tasks

Listed below for each key phase in the Prep School, are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

Early Years Foundation Stage:

These may include:

- Reading books and key words
- Counting up and down stairs, number of jumps, number of tins etc. etc.
- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes
- Identification of shapes in the environment
- Fastening and unfastening buttons and zips and tying shoelaces – getting dressed and undressed, etc. • Story sacks

Key Stage 1

These may include:

- Reading books and key words
- Learning spellings
- Learning number facts
- English activities
- Maths activities
- Real life problems, e.g. shopping, car, bus and house numbers, use of T.V. remote control

Key Stage 2

These may include:

- Reading
- Learning spellings
- Handwriting practice
- Reading comprehension activities
- Planning pieces of writing
- Planning presentations
- Learning Times Tables
- Learning number facts and number bonds
- Practising calculation strategies learned in class
- Researching topics
- 'Talk Homework' that involves discussing the focus for a future piece of work

Role of the Class Teacher

- To follow the homework timetable and adhere to this policy.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to pupils and, if necessary, give parental guidance on how they might assist their child.

- To mark homework within a week of receiving it and give feedback to pupils. Marking may include self-marking, peer marking and/or verbal feedback. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.

Role of the Head of Prep School

- To monitor compliance of the Policy.
- To discuss with staff how successfully the policy is being implemented.
- To meet with parents when appropriate.

Role of Parents

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework and hands it in on time.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To show their child that they value homework and that they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

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