



HOMWORK POLICY

As a school we value parents as partners in their child's learning. Education research tells us, if a child sees that parents are enthusiastic about education, they are far more likely to view their schooling in a positive light and be more receptive to learning.

Homework can make an important contribution to a child's progress at school. As well as reinforcing learning in the classroom, homework helps children to develop the skills and attributes they will need for successful independent lifelong learning.

OUR AIMS

- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for the individual pupil to practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Use homework as a tool to help to 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, children 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.
- Encourage children to develop responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Prepare Primary 7 pupils for transfer to secondary school.

NATURE OF HOMEWORK

Homework is an integral part of the planned learning experience. It should complement classroom learning and focus on the development of literacy and numeracy skills. Homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes.

When setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a child's school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a child gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. Homework will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly in all year groups.

HOMEWORK SUPPORT

As a school we want to effectively support pupils with homework tasks, and provide quality guidance for parents on how best they can help their child's learning at home.

- The class teacher will outline how they plan to deliver the homework for that particular year during the Parent Information Session at the beginning of the school year.
- Parents will also have the opportunity in October and January to individually meet with the class teacher for any further clarification.
- Children are encouraged to ask for support from their teacher and classroom assistant where applicable, if they need help or guidance with homework tasks.
- If a teacher considers that an individual is experiencing a particular learning difficulty and would benefit from extra practice at home, s/he will contact the child's parents and suggest ways in which they can give additional help and support.

TIME ALLOCATION

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the child's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school - initially by speaking to their child's class teacher and if they are not resolved to the Vice Principal and Principal.

ORGANISATION

All children follow a regular programme of homework activities that is written down in their homework book or written on guidance materials sent home in their book bags. This information aims to ensure that parents and pupils know what is expected, when homework will be set and when it should be completed. Each year group's programme will be age appropriate in length of time and degree of difficulty.

ACTIVITIES

The main focus of homework activities for all children will be on literacy and numeracy to reinforce and consolidate skills learnt in the classroom. Further subjects, including preparation for oral presentations and research tasks, will be added to the programme of homework as children move up the school. This is an opportunity for children to think creatively and produce their own form of response. It could be a model, a project, a diagram, a chart, an IT presentation - whatever idea they think best explores the task.

Homework does not just mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Particularly in the case of very young children, it is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which can be very brief, which is most valuable in promoting children's learning.

In Foundation and early Key Stage 1 classes, teachers send home a weekly activity to encourage and enable parents to be involved in their child's learning. The activities are designed to help parents and children work together on a small task that is based on the focus of the week. The tasks cover aspects of literacy and numeracy or as part of their connected learning. Parents are encouraged to give their feedback on how their child engaged with the task.

The class teacher will set differentiated tasks as they see appropriate, taking their direction for setting these tasks from responses and progress during the daily teaching and learning that goes on within their classroom.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Homework will take account of children's capabilities to provide an equal and appropriate challenge for all individuals, including those with special educational needs. Tasks should be at a child's independent learning level.

ROLE OF THE CLASS TEACHER

- To set regular homework in-line with the school policy.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links to the taught curriculum.
- To set homework that matches children's needs and interests, and takes equal opportunities into account.
- To mark homework promptly and give feedback to pupils.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This is done at the Parent Information Session, during Parent Teacher Consultations and by brief notes that are applicable to individual homeworks.

ROLE OF PARENTS AND CARERS

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- 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 by taking interest and supporting homework activities.