

Ballylifford Primary School



Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

The aims of this policy are to:

- Inform parents of the school's homework expectations.
- Enable the pupil, parent and school to work in partnership.
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility from learning.
- Enable parents and children to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- Extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision.

We consider a Homework Policy to be an informative, agreed statement which reflects current good practice and which provides a framework within which action can be taken in a consistent way.

Rationale for homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. We the staff of Ballylifford Primary School, consider homework to be a meaningful reinforcement and revision of work undertaken in class and a means by which we can promote children's self-discipline and independence.

We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers.

One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out- of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop the interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to provide information for teachers, parents, prospective parents and other relevant bodies.

Curriculum

Homework should support the aims of the school. Our broad and balanced curriculum should be reflected in the variety of subject areas addressed. Similarly homework should take a variety of forms, including written, learning, practical, oral, investigative and reading.

Differentiation

Homework given should take account of children's needs and abilities and seek to promote independent learning. Where appropriate, homework will be given to a whole class. At other times, depending on the subject and nature of the activity, homework may be differentiated.

Where whole class homework is given, differentiation will be recognised and reflected in marking.

Home links

Parents should be encouraged to ensure that homework is carried out in as quiet a setting as possible so that children can work to the best of their ability. They should express interest in their children's homework by discussing it with them, offering guidance when necessary, encouraging high standards of presentation and by signing homework diaries and reading records.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. Ideally parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their children read. Sign the homework diary to confirm the guided reading homework and also include the additional reading book being read by the child.

Evaluation and follow up to homework.

Evaluation and follow up should take a variety of forms. These may include, direct teacher marking, group marking, peer and self-evaluation and discussion and presentation of practical and investigative work. Where comments are made, they should be positive and constructive, thereby encouraging confidence and improvement.

Our current Practice

Homework is usually set on a daily basis. We consider it to be an important link between home and school, giving parents an opportunity to share in their child's learning experiences while helping children to develop independent study skills. Homework in all classes should incorporate reading, phonics, written work and learning work. Occasionally World Around Us Theme homework may be set to give opportunities for pupils to develop research, observation, discussion and practical skills.

Religion

As a Catholic school we consider Religion to be a vital, integral part of our daily school life and an important link between the home, school and community. All children have a piece of Religious homework every week. This may include reading, discussion, drawing, writing, learning or practical activity

Types of homework

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

Foundation Stage Homework

In Foundation Stage we ask parents to support their child through home learning. This includes reading daily, phonics, numeracy, literacy and religion.

Parents or guardians need to sign reading record each night.

Key Stage 1 Homework

In Key Stage One we ask parents to support their child through home learning. This includes reading daily, phonics, numeracy, literacy, religion and World Around Us theme work.

Pupils should be able to complete their homework independently and should therefore be encouraged to read the instructions before beginning the activity.

In addition, practical activities such as weighing cooking ingredients, handling real money and familiarising children with measures are of great value. Sometimes, we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library, as well as the Internet.

Presentation is very important and care should be taken with handwriting. Homework should also include a margin, title and date.

Parents or guardians need to sign the completed homework activities in homework diary each night. Any concerns or comments in relation to the particular homework can be recorded in box provided in the homework diary.

Key Stage 2 Homework

At Key Stage 2, we continue to give children similar homework activities outlined for Key Stage 1, but we expect them to do more tasks independently and at their appropriate level. Children will have two pieces of Maths work and two pieces of Literacy every week. We also set homework as a means to ensure that prior learning has been understood and in preparation of World Around Us theme work.

Pupils should be able to complete their homework independently and should therefore be encouraged to read the instructions before beginning the activity.

Homework is always acknowledged and, according to the task, is either marked or used in class to support learning. For example, where a Maths task would be marked according to the school marking policy, a topic research task or World Around Us theme work may be shared in the lesson or used as part of a group activity.

Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time. We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

Presentation is very important and care should be taken with handwriting. Homework should also include a margin, title and date.

Parents or guardians need to sign the completed homework activities in homework diary each night. Any concerns or comments in relation to the particular homework can be recorded in box provided in the homework diary.

Time spent on Homework per night

Year Group	Estimated time to be spent on homework	
Foundation Stage	Up to 20 minutes	<p>Reading - Parents/guardians need to listen to their child read each night and question them on what they have read - use the helpful hints guide in the homework diary/Reading Record</p>
		<p>Phonics work and Sound of the week</p>
Key Stage 1	Up to 30 minutes	<p>Reading - Parents/guardians need to listen to their child read each night and question them on what they have read - use the helpful hints guide in the homework diary/Reading Record</p>
		<p>Revision of spellings(test book needs to be signed and returned each week.)</p>
		<p>Phonics booklet to completed each night</p>
		<p>At Regular Intervals Revise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number bonds (addition and subtraction) to 10/20 - Doubles/near doubles - Adding/subtracting 10,20,30... - Multiplication facts (when applicable)
		<p style="text-align: center;">One written homework each night, Numeracy or Literacy and Religion/PDMU. Occasionally, World Around Us homework will be completed.</p>
Key Stage 2	Up to 45 minutes	<p>Reading(parents/guardians need to listen to their child read each night and question them on what they have read.)</p>
		<p>Revision of spellings(test book needs to be signed and returned each week.)</p>
		<p>Phonics booklet to completed each night</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">One written homework each night, Numeracy or Literacy and Religion/PDMU. Occasionally, World Around Us homework will be completed.</p>
		<p>At Regular intervals Revise number facts, multiplication tables & maths topic areas.</p>

- Please note these are estimated guidelines to offer support to teachers, parents and children; we understand that they cannot be strictly adhered to.
- It is also encouraged for each child to read an additional reading book each night for pleasure.

Approved by *Governors* date:

Signed: _____ **Chairperson**

_____ **Vice- Chairperson**

_____ **Principal**

