**Dalmellington Primary School**



**Homework Policy**

**June 2022**

**Rationale for Homework**

Homework is a very important part of a child’s education and can add much to a child’s development. Research has shown that the completion of homework has a very positive and significant effect on children’s achievement and embeds positive learning habits for life – long learning. We see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

**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 a partnership between home and school in supporting each child’s learning

•To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons

•To help children develop good work habits for the future

**Main features of Homework Tasks**

The content of the task set may vary from stage to stage and at different times throughout a session but should always be:
•Clearly understood by pupil and closely related to ongoing class work.

•At an appropriate level of ability for the child.

•Able to be completed without specialised resources.

•Reflect a variety of activities although generally concentrating on basic skills.

**At the Early Stages typical tasks will be :**

•Practising pages of reading

•Reinforcing new words

•Reinforcing sounds

•Practising writing

•Simple maths tasks

•Finding out something and bringing items in for a class activity

•Personal reading ( library book)

•Spelling

**At the middle stages typical tasks will be :**

•Reading practise and reading related tasks

•Spelling

•Maths ( Including mental maths questions)

•Research related to topics

**At the upper stage typical tasks will be :**

•Reading practise and reading related tasks

•Spelling

•Maths ( Including mental maths questions)

•Research both related to topics and personal research tasks

•Preparation and research for Solo talks.

**Communication with parents**

Homework tasks will be outlined on a homework flier (see example as appendix). This will be shared with parents as a paper copy and on Learning Journals.

**Time allocation for homework**

The following is a guide for time that should be spent on homework averaging out per night. There isn’t an expectation that this will be completed all in the same night. This allows families to organise homework around other activities during the week.

* Primary 1 and 2 – up to 1 hour per week
* Primaries 3 and 4 – up to 1 hour and 15 minutes per week
* Primaries 5 – up to 1 hour and 30 minutes per week
* Primaries 6 and 7 – up to 2 hours per week

**How and when homework is given out**

Children will be given their homework out on a Monday and it should be handed into the teacher on the following Monday. Pupils will have 2 homework jotters to allow this to be managed so that there is sufficient time for marking before returning to the child. Homework is given out as a weekly assignment to help the children to plan their homework and manage their time from an early age. It also allows flexibility if the children have other activities on during the week, eg: Swimming or Scouts. Homework is not usually given out on the first or last week of a term.

**How parents can support our homework policy**

•Ensure that homework is completed at a time when your child is alert (for some children it is better to work in several short bursts than a long period of time.)

•By trying to provide a calm atmosphere with as few distractions as possible.

•By discussing the work with your child and working along with him/her, especially at the early stages

•By checking that the quality and presentation is of an acceptable standard and signing the work.

•By discussing problems arising from homework with the teacher, if the child is finding it difficult to complete the homework within the suggested time.

•By helping your child to manage their time so that all their work is completed on time, taking into account busy evenings and after school clubs.

We understand that home circumstances may make it impossible for homework to be completed occasionally. If this should arise please contact the teacher.

**How teachers can support our homework policy**

* Teachers provide varied, stage appropriate homework for pupils each week
* Teachers prepare the homework with the pupils to ensure they are aware of what is expected of them at home
* Teachers will provide either verbal or written feedback for completed homework. This will be based on our School Marking Code (see appendix 2)
* Teachers will provide a paper copy of the homework tasks as well as upload onto Learning Journals.
* Teachers will inform SLT aware of non-completion of homework on 3 occasions during a term so that SLT can discuss with parents/carers.

Appendix 1 – Sample Homework Information Sheet – on Learning Journals will be saved as a pdf or photograph.

This week we have Reading, spelling and maths homework.

Spend 30 minutes this week – or 10 minutes each night – reading your Bugclub book. You must complete your questions as you go along. Try to read aloud and focus on your expression when reading.

Spelling Words:

Genius Gems Whizz Kids Clever Cookies

white white their

purple why some

yellow also them

tries turn last

tried great

turned

piece

Challenge

resolution

discrimination

extravaganza

arbitrary

ciphering

Maths homework – spend some time each night practising your times tables. This can be done writing them out, on hit the button, or practising a song. You should focus on the 4, 6 or 7 – I would like us to be confident with all of our times tables therefore you should make sure you are confident with one before moving to the next. Complete your math worksheet in your jotter.

Have a lovely week everyone 😊

Appendix 2 – Homework Feedback Code (devised with Dexter’s Learning Squad)

**Excellent effort in homework tasks**

**Good effort in most homework tasks**

**More effort is required**

**sp – spelling mistake**

**p – missing/incorrect punctuation**

**ns – new sentence**

**VF – verbal feedback given**

**Teacher comment given at least once a month. This should reflect the learning the homework demonstrates or the learner’s targets.**