



Busby Primary School
Homework Policy
Revised June 2018



Busby Primary recognises the vital role parents play in their child's education. We hope that parents, pupils and teachers will work in partnership to promote positive learning within and outwith the school. We aim to promote links between home and school and homework is one way in which this can be done. The following policy was designed after consultation with all stakeholders during session 2017/18.

Reasons for homework

Homework extends the amount of learning time available and can help establish a good work ethic, which will stay with children as they grow through secondary school, further and higher education and into the world of work. . Children become aware that learning doesn't only take place in school. Every parent knows their child best and can use their own skills, knowledge and experiences to support their child's learning.

The purpose of homework tasks will vary from class to class and stage to stage but will be used to:

- Reinforce and consolidate of class work
- Prepare for future class work
- Promote opportunities for independent learning
- Train pupils in organising and managing their own time
- Encourage ownership and responsibility for learning
- Provide opportunities for parental co-operation and support
- Communicate of information on class work to parents
- Create channels of communication between home and school
- Promote positive work habits and self-discipline

What can I expect my child to get as homework?

It is the right of pupils to be given homework appropriate to their needs and the right of pupils and parents to be given information and feedback on homework, when appropriate. Equally, it is vital that teachers be given support from parents in the implementation of homework tasks.

Homework tasks will vary according to stage, from class to class and will depend on the curricular focus of the task. Core curriculum areas (Literacy and Numeracy) will provide the main focus for homework tasks. Homework tasks will be supplied on a weekly basis, during term time. In addition suggested optional extension activities will be supplied to attempt over the course of each term.

Each term an extended Family Homework task will be supplied, focussing on a particular Curricular Area e.g. Science, Social Subject, Expressive Arts. This will be designed to encourage the pupils' research skills, whilst allowing them to demonstrate their creativity in its completion.

What should the teacher do?

- Plan and provide tasks that should be stimulating and should also give parents some information about the work being taught in class. **There should be a consistency in the amount of homework supplied across stages. Homework tasks should be supplied on the Monday of any given week.**
- Homework should be given on a weekly rather than nightly basis, allowing families to best plan when to complete the given tasks.
- Homework should be communicated using the agreed pro forma, detailing the assigned activities.
- Plan and provide tasks that should be matched to the needs of the child. In some cases an individual homework programme might be appropriate.
- Assign tasks related to work taught and skills learned in class.
- Set regular homework capable of being completed in the given timescale.
- Read and mark the homework and give appropriate feedback on the quality of the completed tasks. This may be done as a group or as a class.
- Support pupils in completing homework and address any issues or concerns by contacting parents when pupil is not completing homework.

What is my child's role in doing homework?

- Ensure homework pro forma is taken home.
- Ensure that they are clear about what is expected of them.
- Be responsible for looking after their homework jotters.
- Ask for help and advice if necessary.
- Complete the tasks to the best of their ability and hand them in on time.
Homework should be returned to class by the Friday of any given week (unless otherwise indicated).

As a parent what can I do to help my child?

- Help to emphasise the importance of homework.
- Agree a routine for the completion of homework and check that it is being followed.
- Sign the completed homework jotter.
- Give support and assistance when required.
- Encourage your child to always complete tasks to the best of their ability.
- Inform the school where there are concerns about the amount of homework or if pupils are having difficulty completing it. This could be done through writing a note in the homework jotter.

How can the school support?

We are aware that at times pupils will find the completion of set homework tasks challenging, whether through complexity or time factors. Should this be the case, parents should contact the class teacher to discuss in the first instance.

Should a pupil not be completing homework tasks set for them, the class teacher will contact the parents to discuss this, and seek a solution. Should this not remedy the situation, a member of the school management team may follow up.

Where possible, the school will organise and run Homework Clubs to help those pupils requiring extra support in completing allotted tasks.

Recommended time for homework tasks

- **Primary 1 and 2** – approximately 40-50 minutes per week
- **Primary 3 and 4** - approximately 1 hour per week
- **Primary 5** - approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes per week
- **Primary 6 and 7** - approximately 1 hour 30 minutes per week