

Giffnock's Communication Code

I agree	Thumbs up (on chest)	
I disagree	Arms across chest (in X)	
May I speak?	Hand up (by face)	
I'm listening	Clasped hands (on chest)	
Please explain/clarify	Hands out to the side	



Talking Homework



Article 29 -You have the right to education which develops your personality, respect for other's rights and the environment

Talking Homework aims to get children sharing ideas with their families, developing their vocabulary and imagination. The intention is to build thinking skills, perspectives, questioning and articulation through conversation.

Talking Homework is a chance to:

- Help your child to consider and discuss initial ideas in order to promote the development of thinking skills
- Engage your child in purposeful talk
- Ask your child for her or his opinions
- Show that it is perfectly acceptable to have different views or opinions
- Demonstrate how people may respectfully “agree to differ”
- Help to develop your child’s vocabulary
- Stimulate your child’s creativity by reminding them of family occasions and events

Talking Homework has been trialed across the school over the last two sessions and has proved very popular in both children’s and parents’ evaluations. This session, we therefore aim to again use the initiative across our classes.

Points to remember:

- It replaces ‘written/ normal’ homework for the given week
- Talking Homework will only be used from time to time and will therefore provide a different format for homework to help make it engaging and motivating
- There is no need to write anything down
- Children may be asked to discuss their Talking Homework in class, but the main conversations should take place at home
- Some Talking Homework will be whole school, some just for individual classes at different times of the year

Helpful hints:

- Encourage as many family members as possible to be involved in the Talking Homework
- Have fun with the topic of conversation and feel free to go off at a tangent and explore different themes if that feels correct in your conversations
- You can try out our Giffnock Communication Code if you like
- Talking Homework can be completed in one, more extended session (whatever time frames feel suitable for the age of your child/ ren, from 15- 45 minutes) or over two or more occasions. See what works best for you and your children
- Put away all electrical distractions, making it a dedicated talking and listening time. This could even be whilst you are enjoying a meal together
- Please feel free to talk in whatever language is most comfortable

The topic for conversation:

For every Talking Homework given, a question or topic will be given. Sometimes this will be shared as part of a short video clip. This topic will usually be relatively open ended in order to allow rich dialogue and the opportunity to explore a range of issues.

Sentence openers:

You can begin a conversation by modelling... “I think that... because ...”. Encourage the use of the word “because” to explain why. Another useful way to start a conversation, or keep it going, is by using ‘open’ questions, such as:

- What would happen if ... ?
- I wonder ... ?
- What do you think about ... ?
- In what way ... ?
- Tell me about ... ?
- What would you do...?
- How can we ... ?
- How did you ... ?