This policy has been written by the school, building on national best practice, East Renfrewshire Council and Education Scotland guidance.

# **Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**Article 28:** Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of.

**Article 29:** Children’s education should develop each child’s personality, talents and abilities to the fullest. It should encourage children to respect others’ human rights and their own and other cultures.

*‘Doing homework regularly through their years at school has roughly the same benefit as an extra year’s schooling.’*

*(Parents as Partners in Excellence Celia Burn Scottish Learning Festival September 2007)*

*Effective homework is associated with greater parental involvement and support. The broader evidence base suggests that short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, are likely to be most effective. There is a relatively consistent picture that pupils in schools which give more homework perform better.*

[*Engaging parents and families A toolkit for practitioners Section 2: Learning at home*](https://education.gov.scot/improvement/documents/par2-section2-feb17.pdf)

***Rationale***

Homework is a very important part of a child’s education and can add much to a child’s development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed 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 ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child’s level of attainment. 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 wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of 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 a partnership between home and school in supporting each child’s learning
* to provide educational experiences not possible in school
* to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons
* to help children develop good work habits for the future

**Types of homework**

Parents of young children will often be asked to hear reading or help with new words. They may also be asked to help reinforce new skills recently learned. This provides the children with extra practice and starts to build the homework habit. Parental approval gives great encouragement to young readers and provides an early link between home and school. It gives parents an insight into the curriculum and allows parents to experience the tasks being tackled by children.

From P1-7, appropriate homework will be given regularly, in areas, which the teacher considers beneficial. Generally speaking homework will be given on four nights, Monday to Thursday, although some teachers may set it for the week and allow children to complete it whenever it is most convenient to them. Teachers will ask for specific types of homework such as reading fiction, or Research work in relation to Environmental Studies as well as practice and consolidation in basic skills e.g. mental arithmetic, punctuation and grammar.

In P1 and P2 we would expect homework to take approximately 15 minutes per night, building gradually to 30-35 minutes in P6 and P7.

**Pupils with Additional Educational Needs**

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has additional educational needs we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

**The Role of Parents/Carers**

Parents/carers have a vital role to play in their child’s education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents/carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents 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.

**Parent’s Signature**

We prefer a parent/carer to sign all written homework. Where a child has made an error in their homework, parents may, if they wish, ask them to re-do the work correctly underneath and then sign. The teacher will then see any weaknesses and be able to take appropriate action. If homework becomes a “battleground”, there’s something wrong, please contact the school for support.