



Sgoil Ùige - Poileasaidh Obair Dachaigh

Homework Policy

Definition of homework

Homework is any work or activities which pupils are asked to do at home, either on their own or with parents or carers. The amount and type given will depend on the age and ability of the children. Homework does not just mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Particularly in the case of younger children, it is the involvement of parents or carers in joint activities, which can be very brief, that is most valuable in promoting children's learning.

What does the research say?

Research conducted by the Education Endowment Foundation ([Homework | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)) has concluded that homework has a positive impact on children's learning. There is variation in impact, with homework set in secondary schools having an average impact of +5 months and homework set in primary school having a smaller impact on average of +3 months.

The research also evidenced that the quality of the task set appears to be more important than the quantity of work required from the pupil. There is some evidence that the impact of homework diminishes as the amount of time pupils spend on it increases.

The Education Endowment Foundation set out some clear criteria for success of homework as follows:

"Homework has an impact by enabling pupils to undertake independent learning to practice and consolidate skills, conduct in-depth inquiry, prepare for lessons or revise for exams. When implementing homework, the evidence suggests a wide variation in impact. Therefore, schools should consider the 'active' ingredients to the approach, which may include:

- *Considering the quality of homework over the quantity.*
- *Using well-designed tasks that are linked to classroom learning.*
- *Clearly setting out the aims of homework to pupils.*
- *Understanding and addressing any barriers to completion, such as access to a learning device or resources.*

- *Explicitly teaching independent learning strategies.*
- *Providing high-quality feedback to improve pupil learning.*
- *Monitoring the impact homework on pupil engagement, progress and attainment.”*

Purpose of homework

The main purpose of homework is to reinforce what a child has learnt in class. There are numerous benefits which arise as a result, such as:

- developing good work habits and self-discipline
- developing effective partnerships between school and parents
- consolidating skills and understanding
- providing opportunities for children to learn with their parents’ support and help
- assisting in preparing for future classwork

It is also important to note what homework **is not**. For example, homework is not:

- something that is issued as a punishment
- something that should need adult supervision all the time
- something which should take up an entire evening

Local considerations

It is important to consider our local circumstances when developing a homework policy. At Sgoil Ùige, we need to consider:

- remoteness from Stornoway, particularly for pupils who take part in activities or clubs there
- after-school activities which help to develop pupils in different ways
- timing of homework tasks
- the weather – we want to encourage pupils to be active outside when the weather is suitable

In August 2024, as part of Collegiate Activity Time, teachers and SMT in Sgoil Ùige came together to look at research evidence on the impact and best practice of homework and came to the following decisions regarding homework set across the school:

Curriculum for Excellence Level	Maximum Time	Example Activities*
Pupils working within the Early Level (P1 and sometimes beyond)	No more than 5 minutes per day, up to 4 days per week. If a homework task takes longer than the set time above, we recommend the child stops and submits what they have completed within the time.	Active/play based learning where possible focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics & blending • Letter formation • Reading • Oral Gàidhlig/English Language practice • Number formation and early counting
Pupils working within the First Level (Typically P2-P4 but earlier or later for some)	No more than 10-15 minutes per day, up to 4 days per week If a homework task takes longer than the set time above, we recommend the child stops and submits what they have completed within the time.	A combination of active/ play based learning and formal written tasks focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics & blending • Spelling & Common Words • Reading • Oral Gàidhlig/English Language revision (eg discussion of News/Written tasks to be completed in class) • Consolidation of Maths & Numeracy skills that are a current focus in class OR • Number bonds/times tables
Pupils working within the Second Level (Typically P5-P7 but earlier or later for some)	No more than 20-30 minutes per day, up to 4 days per week If a homework task takes longer than the set time above, we recommend the child stops and submits what they have completed within the time.	Formal written tasks and some active learning opportunities focussed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling & Common Words • Reading • Oral Gàidhlig /English Language revision (eg discussion of News/Written tasks to be completed in class) • Consolidation of Maths & Numeracy skills that are a current focus in class OR • Number bonds/times tables

*Some pupils may be working on individual learning targets/action plans and therefore may receive alternative homework activities. These will be based specifically on their identified targets which will be agreed with parents in advance.

Absence due to illness

We will not usually provide homework for a pupil who is absent due to short-term illness as s/he will not have had the necessary input from the class teacher to complete work in a meaningful way. In certain circumstances, where a pupil may have a long-term sickness absence but feel fit enough to complete work, we may consider providing homework that the pupil could manage without requiring input from the teacher e.g. revision work or a personal project. This would be agreed upon together by the parent and teacher. Homework is not an alternative to learning in school.

Absence due to family holiday

Homework will not ordinarily be provided for any pupil who is withdrawn from school for a family holiday.

Resources for parents

The school will provide a list of resources that parents can use at home if they wish to do some extra work with their child. This will include online games, worksheets etc and will be updated regularly.

Useful links

<https://www.gaelic4parents.com/>

<http://www.readwritecount.scot/>

Look, Cover, Write, Check

1. Read the words to be learned with your child. Check that s/he understand what the words mean
2. Read each word – spell out the letter names for each word in turn
3. Cover the word and write from memory, saying the letters out loud
4. Check the spelling – correct if necessary
5. Reward correct spellings with words of support. Do not make an issue of incorrect spellings; encourage your child to try again