



DYKESMAINS LEARNING AT HOME POLICY



Rationale

This learning at home policy ensures a commonality of approach between all learners, parents/carers and teachers, to ensure a clear view of the purpose of home-based learning tasks. As promoted in the [Scottish Schools \(Parental Act\) 2006](#), there is recognition of the vital role that parents/carers play in their children’s learning and development, at home and in the community. We aim for effective partnerships between home and school to improve outcomes for every child in our learning community. Setting home learning is not compulsory, however we recognise the importance of sharing learning so that parents/carers can discuss school learning with their child.

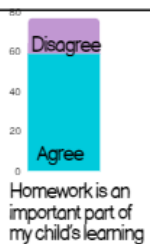
We are focused on ensuring a progression of skills for learners, across our school community and that learning at home is a positive and beneficial experience for learners, aligned with their needs, and supports their overall learning. We are fortunate that many of our learners participate in a wide range of out-of-school activities. We fully support the attendance of these as we understand the benefits attached to learning new skills, building resilience and working alongside others. In support of this, we attempt to offer a wide range of lunch and after school clubs to encourage the development of these experiences and skills. Therefore, we believe that learning at home is wider than setting homework tasks and we have created this policy in line with learners, parent & staff views to encourage parental involvement, whilst reducing the burden on busy family lives. At times, there may be specific support required. This would be agreed in partnership between home and school.

This learning at home policy is designed to:

- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and their children.
- Consolidate learning taught in class.
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences.

From data collated over the last two years around homework return and survey data from pupils, staff and parents across our school community, our findings supported a decision to streamline and define learning at home relevant to our school community:

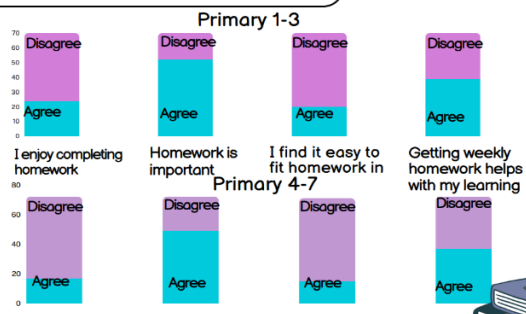
PARENT COMMENTS



What would make homework more appealing and meaningful?

- More interactive
- Fewer activities to complete
- Given out either monthly or for a term to be completed when convenient
- I prefer homework sheets and spelling words instead of online
- Just finding time to make it fun and not stressful

PUPIL VIEWS



As a result, we have modified our learning at home policy to provide a flexible range of opportunities to support learning at home. Participation is flexible to suit individual family routines.

Stages	Activities
All classes	<p>Class Termly Newsletters Class termly newsletters are shared with families to provide information on what is being covered across the term in Literacy, Numeracy, IDL and any stand-alone curricular areas. These newsletters provide parents/carers an overview where they can support discussion on learning at home.</p>
All classes	<p>Reading for pleasure Reading for pleasure is a fundamental skill that offers numerous benefits to children's development. It fosters imagination, enhances language skills, improves cognitive abilities, and cultivates a lifelong love of learning. All children are encouraged to enjoy reading their own books at home. In support of this, we offer weekly borrowing from the school library. This session, the library relocated to a larger space in the school, and is currently being redesigned by our Reading Committee. This will soon be available for children to select a book of choice to read in class and take home.</p>
All classes	<p>Technology In line with pupil interest and developing literacy skills across the school, we utilise technology in school and encourage this to be used effectively, to support home learning. All pupils are provided with logins for home use. This may include Bug Club for reading, Sumdog for literacy and numeracy, Purple Mash, supporting all areas of the curriculum and Seesaw which provides access to your child's personal targets as well as allocated online activities that support the consolidation of learning in class. Please encourage your children to access these regularly at home. If you are unable to access technology at home, please contact the school.</p>
Primary 1	<p>Home learning pack Within the first few weeks of settling into primary 1, learners will receive number and sound flashcards the week after they are taught in class. These will be built up over the term, to support the consolidation of what has been taught in class. Class teachers will also provide suggested activities for parents/carers on how to use these at home. From October, familiar reading books are sent home weekly and common word grids that allow parents to support common and tricky words being taught in class.</p>
Primary 2-3	<p>Home learning pack Within the first few weeks of returning to school, learners will receive weekly reading books that are familiar reads. Additional books will be allocated on their Bug Club account. From term 2, lists of common words, phoneme sounds taught, Number bonds/timetables taught in the previous term will be provided, with suggested activities to take part in at home.</p>
Primary 4-7	<p>Home learning grids In the upper school, the focus for home learning is to increase independence. From term 2, grids will be given to learners with previously taught spelling and numeracy concepts to consolidate learning in school. Information on learning in classes will be available in the class termly newsletter. From Primary 4, mechanical reading is usually secure and therefore no reading books are sent home. Bug Club is used to set books for reading online at home, should learners prefer additional reading material at home. We encourage reading for pleasure and supporting your child to experiment with a range of authors and genres to help them explore books that they enjoy.</p>
All classes	<p>Open afternoon In term 3, families are invited in to their child's class to experience how their child learns in school.</p>

Long Term Illness

After a child has been absent for two weeks or more, parents may contact the school and arrangements will be made with the class teacher regarding missed work.

Holidays

When pupils are taken on family holidays during term time, they are missing the direct teaching input, guidance and intervention of the class teacher. For this reason, it is inappropriate to give class work to be completed on holiday. Learners can make best use of the online learning platforms provided by the school.

How staff at Dykesmains support this policy:

- By providing information on class learning through termly newsletters, online platforms and opportunities for parents/carers to come into school.
- By ensuring the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability.
- By communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress through learning conversations.

Useful links

- Seesaw- [Home - Seesaw | Elementary Learning Experience Platform](#)
- Bugclub reading- [ActiveLearn: Login \(activelearnprimary.co.uk\)](#)
- Purple Mash- [Purple Mash by 2Simple](#)
- Sum Dog- [Sumdog](#)
- Parent Zone Scotland- [Parentzone Scotland | Education Scotland](#)