



**St John Ogilvie Primary and Early Years
Homework Policy
August 2023**



GENERAL STATEMENT

At St John Ogilvie Primary School, we recognise that pupils who have spent a busy, structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon and have an opportunity to play.

We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities e.g. swimming, football, Brownies, Beavers, etc.

We believe that homework activities should be set but should not promote resentment and arguments.

Homework should be used to effectively consolidate / extend what is learned in school.

Homework is planned to be meaningful. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework should be undertaken to the best of their ability.

This approach aims to support children's growing perception about their ability to complete a task outside the school environment. It also fosters the skills of independent learning.

We hope that parents/carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work carried out at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. Parents/carers are valuable partners in the education of our pupils.

1. INTRODUCTION

St John Ogilvie Primary School is firmly committed to promoting achievement and raising the attainment of all pupils. We recognise the significant contribution homework can make to the personal, social and academic success of the individual pupil. Homework has a very positive and significant effect on children's achievement and embeds positive learning habits for life-long learning.

Homework provides our pupils with the opportunity to practise and develop key skills already begun in school.

This policy was developed in response to a consultation with parents/carers, pupils and staff.

2. THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

St John Ogilvie Primary regards the purpose of homework as:

- Sharing learning with parent/carers and providing opportunities for them to be involved in their child's learning.
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- Encouraging every child to grow in confidence and self-discipline required to study by themselves and grow towards becoming an independent learner.



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3. AIMS OF THE POLICY

Through this policy, we aim to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensure the needs of individual pupils are taken into account.
- Ensure that children and parents/carers know what to expect.
- Extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, pupils and school to work in partnership.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and responsibilities of parents/carers, pupils and school are outlined below.

PARENT/CARER'S ROLE	SCHOOL'S ROLE	PUPIL'S ROLE
<p>The parent/carer's role is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To show interest and give support and encouragement to their child as they complete homework. • To store digital usernames for homework websites so pupils will have easy access. • To ensure that tasks are completed to the best of their child's ability. • Where possible provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their tasks. • To support their child by speaking about the homework task, but not directly completing the task for them. • To help their child manage their time so that all their work is completed on time, taking into account busy evenings and after school clubs. 	<p>The school's role is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide homework bags for P1-P3 pupils. • To provide login details to all learners for digital websites used. • Where possible provide an appropriate device if no device is available at home. • To ensure that homework reinforces school learning. • To issue homework on a Monday. • To differentiate homework in order to suit the needs of all pupils. 	<p>The pupil's role is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure homework tasks are accessed, completed and handed in on time. • To complete tasks to the best of their ability. • To alert teachers and/or parents/carers to any difficulties they are experiencing.



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5. HOMEWORK TASKS

The nature of homework will depend on the age and stage of our pupils. Typical homework tasks are outlined below:

P1	<p>Homework guide issued at beginning of session.</p> <p>All children issued with a red homework bag.</p> <p>Homework issued on a Monday and returned on a Thursday.</p> <p>Homework will consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading book – core reader. • Sight words. • Phonics. • Active numeracy grid – issued termly.
P2 & P3	<p>Homework guide issued at beginning of session.</p> <p>All children issued with a red homework bag.</p> <p>Children also issued with a jotter and pencil at beginning of session for active spelling activities. This jotter remains at home.</p> <p>Homework issued on a Monday and returned on a Thursday.</p> <p>Homework will consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading book – home reader / library book. • Group spelling words with active spelling grid – use homework jotter issued which should be kept at home. • Sumdog only for numeracy.
P4 – P7	<p>Homework guide issued at beginning of session.</p> <p>Children also issued with a jotter and pencil at beginning of session – active spelling activities. This jotter remains at home.</p> <p>Homework issued on a Monday and completed by Thursday.</p> <p>Homework will consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option of choosing a book from home / school reader but not core reader. • Sumdog for numeracy and spelling. • Free play Sumdog numeracy and spelling during shorter weeks. • Nesy homework for specific children.



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6. TERM TIME FAMILY HOMEWORK

It is not school policy to provide homework for pupils taking holidays during term time. However, parents/carers may wish to encourage their child to read for pleasure and keep a diary or another record of their holiday to share in class when they return.

Homework is not usually given out on the first or last week of a term or a shortened week due to bank holidays or In-Service days.

7. DIFFICULTIES WITH HOMEWORK

Homework is given out as a weekly assignment to help children to plan their homework and manage their time from an early age. This also allows flexibility if children have other activities on during the week, e.g. clubs.

We understand that home circumstances may make it difficult for homework to be completed at times. If this is the case then please contact the school via email or by using the Xpressions app. Our admin staff will pass your correspondence on to your child's class teacher.

Do not let your child become distressed about homework. If there is a problem, please contact Mrs McCulloch, Head Teacher as soon as possible to discuss this and avoid any further upset.

8. REVIEWING OUR HOMEWORK POLICY

This Homework Policy will be reviewed as required and will consider the opinions of pupils, parents/carers and staff obtained through surveys.