

Firpark Primary School



Homework Policy

Rationale

This policy has been devised in consultation with teachers, parents and pupils.

'Research consistently demonstrates that where parents are involved with their children's education and learning both at home and in partnership with the school, their children do better and achieve more.' (Education Scotland)

Homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in a variety of curricular areas. It helps to raise the level of achievement of individual pupils, provides opportunities for parents and children to work together and, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school.

Homework is a number of tasks which pupils are asked to do on their own or with their parents in order to further develop their skills in literacy, numeracy, health & wellbeing and other areas of Curriculum for Excellence. Pupils should be encouraged to develop good homework habits to enhance progress and foster skills for life-long learning.

The Curriculum for Excellence regards parents as integral to providing effective education and learning for children and young people.

Aim

The establishment of this policy aims to involve all parents, pupils and staff in good homework practice and to have a clear view of the purpose of home based tasks and their role within the homework structure.

The Scottish Schools (Parental involvement) Act 2006 aims to help parents to be involved in their child's education and learning. It identifies three important key elements that schools have a role in promoting and developing, Learning at Home, Home-school Partnerships and Parent Councils.

Environment

The school would recommend the homework tasks are completed in a quiet area, however as the tasks vary the environment should also vary to allow parents and child to maximise the effectiveness of the homework.

Time

It is unproductive for a child to work on homework for extended periods of time.

Pupils should be given their weekly homework on a Monday, due for return on Friday. The school would recommend that the time spent on homework should be:

- Pr 1- 3: 15 mins per night
- Pr 4 -7: 20 to 30 mins per night

Types of Homework

The type of homework pupils receive will vary depending on individual learning needs and learning taking place in class. This may include paper/ written tasks, creative tasks, ICT tasks, physical tasks or social tasks, e.g. 'Talk About....'

We would encourage families to support the development of their child by promoting independent living skills and allowing them to contribute to everyday tasks at home, e.g. shopping, bed-making etc. It would also be beneficial to consider joining suitable local facilities, e.g. clubs, organisations and/ or library.

Holidays

Home based tasks are directly linked to the learning and teaching in class, for this reason it would be inappropriate to provide home based tasks during holiday periods.

Role of the Management Team

- To monitor the quality/ variety of homework tasks allocated to pupils.
- To promote the Homework Policy by raising its status and importance.
- To monitor and evaluate the Homework Policy of the school.
- To continually liaise and support parents and staff in the implementation of the Homework Policy.

Role of the Teacher

- To prepare and set interesting and purposeful home activities
- To include differentiation where required to suit the needs of each individual learner
- To provide feedback to pupils
- To encourage and praise good efforts and show appreciation of pupils' work
- To monitor the completion of homework and inform SMT if any problems arise, e.g. homework repeatedly not completed

Role of the Pupil

- To participate in homework routine as set out by parents
- To complete homework tasks as assigned
- To talk/ communicate with parents and teachers about homework

Role of the Parents/ Carers

- To become familiar with the school Homework Policy
- To check for homework on weekly basis
- To establish a homework routine, providing a suitable space and time for homework to be completed
- To assist their child with homework where necessary, (without completing it for them)
- To praise and value the effort and homework produced by their child
- To continue to liaise with the school on the implementation for the Homework Policy

Conclusion

From the pupils:

"Homework is a little bit hard for me and it's a little bit good"

“Homework is very challenging but it’s always good.”

“Homework is my favourite thing because I always find it easy and not too hard. It feels like it helps me.”

“I think it’s great, fantastic. Sometimes a couple of mistakes but that’s alright. It helps me be happy and it makes me work.”

Homework tasks and activities are designed to consolidate and reinforce learning that has taken place in school. Participating in a homework routine also allows parents to get involved in their child’s learning and discuss their school day.

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed annually, or when the need arises. The school will consider the individual needs or circumstances of pupils and families.

Appendices

1. Firpark Primary School Weekly Homework



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Homework

Weekly homework should consist of:

- Reading book/ material
 - 1x Numeracy task
 - 1x Literacy task
 - 1x Additional task
- (linked to either topic or health & wellbeing)

These tasks can be written, practical or ICT related depending on the

- learning needs of the pupils
- Aim or learning intention of the task

Homework should be distributed on Mondays for submission on Fridays of that same week.

Variations on the above should be discussed and agreed with management.