

Balmalloch Primary School

Homework Policy



responsi**B**ility

gr**A**atitude

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

hu**M**ility and forgiveness

Persever**A**nce

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

h**O**nesty and gener**O**sity

respe**C**t

friends**H**ip & family

A Place of Enthusiastic Learning and Achievement!

Homework Policy

Balmalloch Primary School – November 2025

In line with Education Scotland's vision of achieving excellence and equity for all learners, our homework approach aims to support learning in a balanced, positive way that reinforces progress without undue pressure.

1. Introduction

This Homework Policy sets out a clear, consistent approach to homework at Balmalloch Primary School. It has been developed collaboratively with staff, parents and pupils to ensure that homework:

- reinforces classroom learning
- supports children's academic progress and improves self confidence
- is manageable for families and teaching staff alike

The focus is on short, regular practice that benefits pupils without creating unnecessary workload for staff or families.

2. Aims of Homework

Homework at Balmalloch aims to:

- Reinforce and consolidate learning in literacy and maths
- Build good learning habits, responsibility and independence
- Support communication between home and school
- Provide opportunities for children to practise skills and gain confidence

Homework is strongly encouraged to support children's progress.

3. Our Approach to Homework

Our approach reflects the agreement that homework should be:

- Manageable, consistent and predictable
- Linked directly to class learning
- Support independent working for pupils, depending on stage
- Easy for parents to check
- Low-preparation and low-marking for teachers
- Flexible to different home situations

4. Types of Homework

Homework will focus on the key skills that benefit most from regular practice:

Core Tasks

- Daily reading (jotter based)
- Numeracy fluency tasks (digital)
- Spelling / phonics practice (jotter based)
- Supplementary tasks (occasional)
- Topic or research tasks (as appropriate)
- Personal talks – stage dependent

5. Homework Expectations by Stage

Homework will be short and achievable:

Stage	Typical Tasks	Time per week
P1-P2	Daily reading, phonics and occasional number work.	up to 40 mins per week
P3-P4	Reading, spelling, numeracy tasks and occasional topic work.	up to 1 hr per week
P5-P7	Reading, spelling, numeracy and occasional topic work or research.	up to 1.5 hrs per week

These times are guidelines. Families may adapt based on routines and capacity.

Homework will not be set during major school holidays.

6. Rhythm of Homework

To support consistency:

- Homework will typically be issued on a Monday
- Children should aim to complete tasks across the week
- Homework will be returned on Thursday or Friday (class teacher will confirm)

This gives families flexibility while maintaining a clear weekly rhythm.

7. Use of Technology/Outside resources

Literacy tasks will be completed as written tasks in a homework jotter.

Digital tools may be used for numeracy practice where appropriate, such as:

- Studyladder (core) – 1 game based and 1 formal where possible
- Sumdog (additional)
- Other approved online resources

Kilsyth library has a wide range of books and talking books available to all members. Contact details can be found below if you wish to access these resources.

01236 632880 | kilsythlibrary@northlan.gov.uk | [#KilsythLib](https://twitter.com/KilsythLib)

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

- Try their best with homework
- Take responsibility of resources for homework
- Ask for help if unsure

Parents/Carers

- Encourage a positive homework routine
- Support daily reading
- Provide a quiet space where possible
- Communicate any difficulties to the class teacher

Teachers

- Issue relevant, achievable homework aligned to class learning
- Provide clear instructions
- Acknowledge homework with a sticker or stamper in an encouraging manner
- Provide parents with regular information at parents' evening

9. Feedback and Monitoring

To support motivation and learning:

- Teachers will give brief feedback through ticks, stickers or stamps
 - Homework may be discussed in class
 - Parents will receive information about their child's progress through existing reporting and communication channels
 - The focus is support, not sanction
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10. Inclusion and Flexibility

We recognise different family circumstances and learning needs. Homework may be:

- adapted for individual pupils
- reduced or adjusted based on wellbeing needs
- supported through alternative formats

Families are encouraged to contact the class teacher with any concerns.

11. Review of Policy

In line with the policy review cycle this policy will be reviewed every two years in consultation with:

- staff
- parents/carers
- pupils

12. Conclusion

Balmalloch Primary values the cooperation between home and school. When homework is purposeful, manageable and consistent, it can make a positive contribution to children's learning, confidence and independence. We welcome ongoing feedback to ensure our approach remains effective and supportive for all families.