



How else can Parents help?

- ✓ Read to your child every night; they are never too old!
- ✓ Play board games and have fun with the whole family.
- ✓ Let your child see you reading regularly; they will want to be like you and copy your good habits.
- ✓ Encourage your children to read widely, at a level they can manage, for their own enjoyment; visit the library when you can.
- ✓ Chat with your child about the books they are reading, topical events and things they are interested in.
- ✓ Go out and about; visit places of interest such as museums and art galleries; go walking, cycling or swimming.



Parents' Guide to Homework at Errol Primary School

Homework gives pupils the opportunity to extend and develop their learning and raise their levels of achievement with the support of their parents.

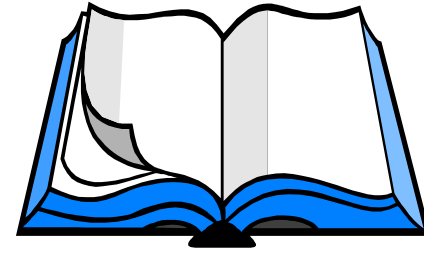
Homework encourages pupils to become independent and responsible in managing their own study time.

Homework provides an opportunity for parents to be actively involved in their child's education.



What is homework for?

- ✓ To allow children to practise and consolidate learning and to plan and prepare for future learning.
- ✓ To help them develop skills in using resources and gathering information out with the school.
- ✓ To develop good working habits and self-discipline by encouraging responsibility for their own learning and giving opportunities to manage their own time.
- ✓ To give information to parents on their child's day to day class work and to create opportunities for parents to work with the school to support their child's learning.



What will the homework consist of?

Over the course of the year, your child's homework may include some of the following activities:

- ✓ Reading practice and phonic (sounds) work
- ✓ English language skills such as spelling, planning and drafting pieces of writing
- ✓ Practising maths facts and skills such as learning multiplication tables
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Preparation for making a presentation
- ✓ Finding and recording information
- ✓ Practical tasks such as weighing, measuring, observing and undertaking other activities
- ✓ Health, fitness and PE skills such as throwing and catching

When will homework be set?

Teachers will clearly communicate what homework is to be done and when it is to be handed in. Pupils will often be asked to make a note of this themselves. If in doubt please ask.

In the early years homework will often be set in bite sized bits for the next day; which should take about 15 minutes to complete.



As your child moves through school, homework will be set in advance, often at the start of a week, to be handed in by the end of the week. This should take about 20 minutes per evening to complete.

With the support of parents, children are expected to develop independent working skills and good habits in organising time and resources to do homework and hand it in on time.



What should parents do?

- ✓ Find out what homework has been given and help to organise time for completing it. Provide a peaceful, quiet environment to allow your child to concentrate and create a calm, stress-free atmosphere.
- ✓ With your child, check their work and discuss ways of improving or correcting it. If there are one or two errors ask your child to sort them. If there are many errors help your child as you think best and write a note for the teacher.
- ✓ If your child is having difficulty with a piece of homework break it down into small chunks and have a break in between each chunk. Focus on quality; it is better to do a little homework well than all of it poorly. Let the teacher know; write a note in your child's homework jotter/school diary.
- ✓ If you feel your child would benefit from extension or reinforcement of their homework use what has been set by the school as a guide to what you can set for your child yourself.
- ✓ Sign your child's homework to let us know you have seen it and are satisfied with the standard of work being handed in.

Errol Primary School Homework Policy

Part A – Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to improve learning. Education is a partnership between home and school; and homework is an important part of education which can add much to a child's development. Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of achievement and helps to develop independent learning skills. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Children take part in many worthwhile activities out with school at evenings and weekends which contribute greatly to learning and child development. It is important that a balance is achieved between homework, home life and out of school activities.

Part B – Policy Principles

The Key Principles upon which this policy statement is based are as follows:

- Improving learning
- Raising achievement for all
- Partnership between home and school
- Recognition of the educational value of out of school activities

Part C – Policy Outcomes

- Learning will improve for all through homework
- The home-school partnership will be enhanced through homework
- Pupils will develop independence and organizational skills through homework
- Pupils will receive homework appropriate to their ability and achievable within the given timescale
- Parents will have the opportunity to take an active part in their child's education through homework

Part D - Responsibilities

- Teachers will set homework which is achievable in terms of level of ability and time to complete based on what pupils can achieve in class
- Teachers will clearly communicate what homework is to be done and when it is to be returned to school
- Pupils will work to the best of their ability to complete homework to a high standard
- Parents will sign homework to indicate that they have supported their child in doing their homework and are satisfied with the standard of work their child returns to school

May 2009