SCALLOWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

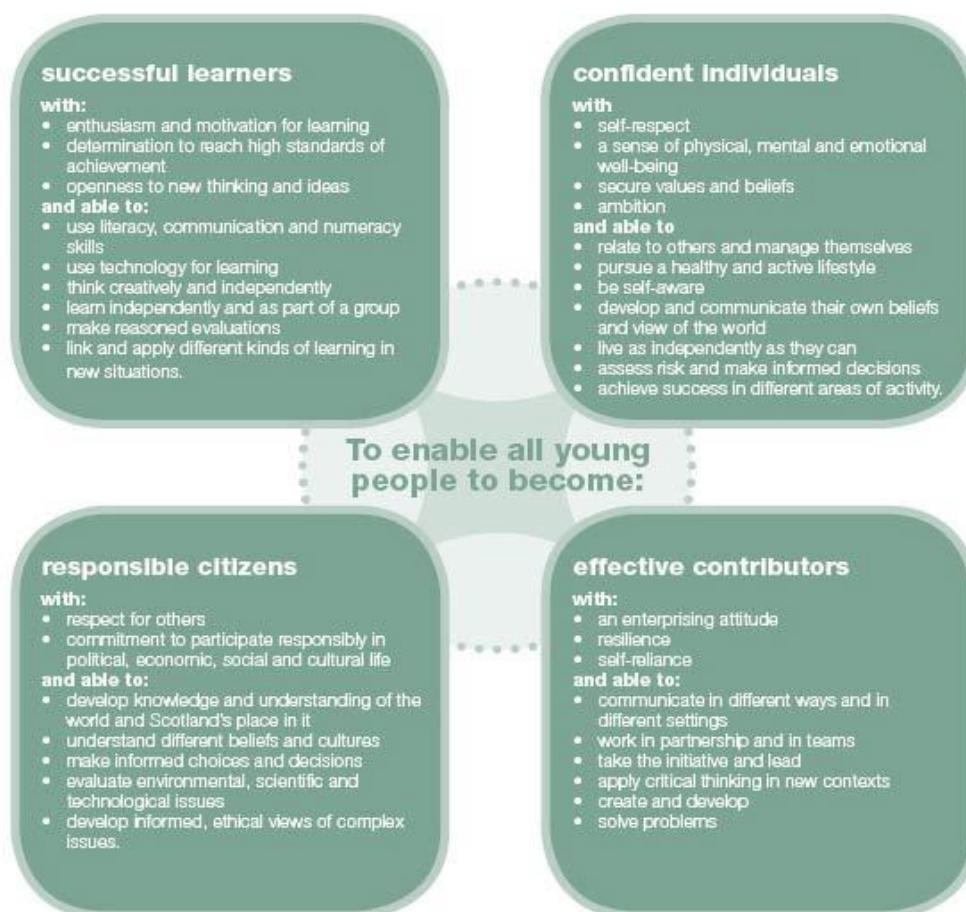*Information for parents and carers on the School's Homework Policy*

Rationale

"Research shows that pupils who regularly discuss school work with their parents perform better than those who don't. Where parents are actively involved in their children's learning it has a positive effect on their children's attainment and achievement."

Learning and Teaching Scotland website on supporting parents.

How Good Is Our School? – The 3-18 Curriculum

This policy has been created using the self evaluation framework contained in the HMIe document, 'How Good Is Our School? 4th Edition. In particular, the policy has been developed with reference to the following HGIOS self evaluation headings:

2.2 Curriculum: Rationale and design.
2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment: Learning and engagement.
2.5 Family Learning: Engaging families in learning
2.7 Partnerships: the development and promotion of partnerships.
3.2 Raising attainment and achievement: Attainment over time.

successful learners
with:
• enthusiasm and motivation for learning
• determination to reach high standards of achievement
• openness to new thinking and ideas
and able to:
• use literacy, communication and numeracy skills
• use technology for learning
• think creatively and independently
• learn independently and as part of a group
• make reasoned evaluations
• link and apply different kinds of learning in new situations.

confident individuals
with
• self-respect
• a sense of physical, mental and emotional well-being
• secure values and beliefs
• ambition
and able to
• relate to others and manage themselves
• pursue a healthy and active lifestyle
• be self-aware
• develop and communicate their own beliefs and view of the world
• live as independently as they can
• assess risk and make informed decisions
• achieve success in different areas of activity.

To enable all young people to become:

responsible citizens
with:
• respect for others
• commitment to participate responsibly in political, economic, social and cultural life
and able to:
• develop knowledge and understanding of the world and Scotland's place in it
• understand different beliefs and cultures
• make informed choices and decisions
• evaluate environmental, scientific and technological issues
• develop informed, ethical views of complex issues.

effective contributors
with:
• an enterprising attitude
• resilience
• self-reliance
and able to:
• communicate in different ways and in different settings
• work in partnership and in teams
• take the initiative and lead
• apply critical thinking in new contexts
• create and develop
• solve problems

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Purposes of homework

Homework enables pupils to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.

- Access resources not available in the classroom.

- Develop research skills.

- Have an opportunity for independent work.

- Show progress and understanding.

- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.

- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.

- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.

- Engage parental co-operation and support.

- Create channels for home school dialogue.

Main features of homework tasks

We set a variety of homework activities. The content of the task set may vary from stage to stage and at different times throughout a session but should always be:

- Explained by the teacher and closely related to ongoing class work
- At an appropriate level of ability for the child
- Able to be completed without specialised resources
- Reflect a variety of activities although generally concentrating on the basic skills
- Marked with some feedback given e.g. written or verbal

Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have any queries on homework.

In Primaries 1-3 typical tasks may be:

- Reinforcing sounds and actions
- Discussion using reading book
- Practising pages of reading and keywords from Reading books
- Spelling and tricky words
- Finding out something or bringing in items for a class activity
- Enjoy Library Books, alone or with parents
- Maths activities linked to the maths scheme
- Research at home for topics leading to a presentation of information
- Homework Choice Grids

In Primaries 4 typical tasks may be:

- Preparation of reading (individual and/or group novels or readers)
- Spelling
- Other literacy work, e.g. grammar activities
- Maths activities linked to current Maths topic and mental maths (e.g. X Tables)
- Finding out some information in relation to topics
- Personal reading/Library Books
- A small amount of preparation for an individual talk
- Extended homework tasks on guided topics leading to presentation of information
- Homework Choice Grids

In Primaries 5-7 typical tasks will be:

- Preparation of reading
- Spelling
- Other literacy work
- Maths activities linked to current Maths topic and mental maths
- Research tasks on topics
- Personal reading/Library Books
- Preparation for an individual talk
- Individual personalised topics for presentation to class
- Weekly Question on Class Team (Notebook)
- Homework Choice Grids

READING

At the early stages pupils will be expected to practise pages at home daily, which may have already been prepared in school. They should also practise words and sounds as indicated by the teacher.

Older pupils will be expected to prepare their new piece of reading at home. They should use the glossary or a dictionary to find out the meanings of any words they do not know. If it is useful pupils may continue to read aloud to an adult on a regular basis until they can read fluently and easily with good comprehension.

Reading material will be taken from the current reading scheme and novels appropriate to your child's reading ability.

SPELLING

At the early stages spelling homework will involve learning the sounds of the letters and practising blending these sounds. In P1 and P2 there will also be practice of tricky words at home. From P1 pupils will learn their spelling words by using a variety of methods, including the LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK method. They may be asked to use some of their spelling words in sentences or other appropriate activities.

MATHS
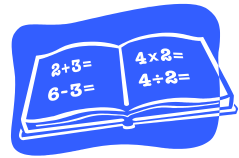
Maths homework will provide additional practice in particular areas which have already been taught in school. It will also include some mental maths, e.g. x Tables.

UNFINISHED WORK

Occasionally a child will be required to take unfinished work home to complete. This should not happen on a regular basis and the work will be within the child's capabilities.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

Pupils who work with additional support needs staff may be required to practise spelling, reading or number work at home as part of their individualised education plan (IEP).

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR HOMEWORK POLICY

➤ By regularly checking your child's homework diary (P1-P7) and the Teams app (P5-7 only)

➤ By ensuring homework is done while your child is alert

➤ By providing a quiet atmosphere with as few distractions as possible

➤ By checking that the quality and presentation is of an acceptable standard

➤ By ensuring the homework is handed in on time

➤ By encouraging your child to visit the public library and other place of interest (indoor and outdoor)

➤ By reading to your child

➤ By encouraging your child to read for enjoyment

➤ By supporting your child in the research and presentation of topic work

Above all, by showing interest and praising good efforts.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

www.scalloway.shetland.sch.uk

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone

Topmarks (www.topmarks.co.uk)

Sumdog (www.sumdog.co.uk)

Woodlands School (www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk)

Linguascope (linguascope.com)

BBC Learning Zone (bbc.co.uk/learningzone)

SCRAN – Library Service (www.scran.ac.uk)

Welsh Grid for Learning (hwb.wales.gov.uk)

Microsoft Teams (P5-7)

Prodigy (www.prodigygame.com)

Skoolbo (https:skoolbo.com)

Nessy (www.nessy.com)

Please let us know if you find any more good sites.