



Corstorphine Primary School

HOMEWORK POLICY STATEMENT

RATIONAL

Research evidence shows that homework does have a positive effect on learning.

"Where children were set homework, were encouraged by parents to do it and had it regularly marked in school there was a steady and consistent association between that and the level of performance."

(Research carried out by Jordanhill College of Education)

We recognise that children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as one important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.

Homework can play a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment, however, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in play, free time and participation in the out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of our children.

HOMEWORK

Homework is the name given to those tasks which take place out of school but which are relevant to curricular objectives and learning outcomes. Throughout the primary school years there will be an increasing degree of responsibility on the learner to carry out homework tasks. In compiling homework tasks consideration will be given to engaging children's interests and enthusiasms. Homework should not be so ritualistic that it is undertaken solely as a duty.

REASONS FOR GIVING HOMEWORK

- homework can help raise the attainment of every pupil
- for practice and consolidation of classwork e.g. reading, number practice, tables, letter sounds, alphabetical order and spelling
- offering access to resources not available in school and developing skills in their use e.g. watching weather forecasts on television, gaining information from newspapers, books and computers, food packets etc and gathering information from parents/grandparents etc.
- preparation for future classwork e.g. gathering information, reading and bringing objects from home
- to encourage pupil ownership and responsibility for learning
- training for pupils in organising and planning their time, developing good work habits and a degree of self-discipline
- to increase one to one attention for certain tasks e.g. oral reading and tables
- to support tasks given for individual learning needs
- providing information for parents in a variety of subject areas, giving real opportunities for parental co-operation and support and creating a shared agenda for home-school liaison and dialogue
- building pupil confidence by discussion of work with parents
- providing for parents a specific learning activity in which they can closely participate with their children

FEATURES OF HOMEWORK

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 clearly understood by the pupil and closely related to ongoing class work.
- be at an appropriate level of ability for the child.
- be able to be completed without specialised resources.
- reflect a variety of types of activities eg. spelling grids
- an element of choice should be routinely provided in homework

- be provided with very clear instructions by the teacher
- be marked promptly with some feedback given. Feedback will be provided on homework, proportionate to the task and manageable in the timeframe available.

A detailed Maths advice booklet is provided for Parents on the school website to help with homework. Staff will endeavour to direct parents to specific pages in this help booklet which can assist with homework.

A webpage will be established with ideas for the optional homework – parents and children will be directed to this

FORMAT OF HOMEWORK

Three pieces of homework will be provided each week, Maths, spelling and a.n.other piece.

Regular reading for enjoyment will be over and above this and the expectation is that all children will read each day eg. in bed at night

Teachers will provide optional homework for children who wish for more.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

- those tasks which are planned for and form an integral part of your child's curriculum in Language, R.E., Maths, Environmental Studies and Expressive Arts
- spontaneous work arising from teacher/pupil ideas and lines of enquiry e.g. project work
- discrete pieces of work which run parallel to class work e.g. reading another given book by an author whose work is being studied in class
- preparation for classwork e.g. reading a chapter of a book in order to complete comprehension activities at school, collecting materials for model making and technology, preparing talks, questionnaires for completion and keeping diary of diet
- sharing criteria about learning to provide opportunities for parental partnership
- finishing off work is not a regular part of homework but may be necessary on an occasional basis
- following feedback from parents Art and Craft activities will ONLY be provided as optional activities

FREQUENCY AND LENGTH OF TASKS

Homework will be handed out on a Monday to be collected in on a Friday, however in the light of parental feedback, P1 and P2 will have access to the materials in their book bags over the weekend.

It is difficult to give precise time limits for homework. As a very rough guide the following allocations are suggested:

- P1 and P2 10-15 minutes
- P3,4 and P5 10-20 minutes
- Upper school 15-30 minutes

Timings are based on average every night, although homework will not necessarily be given every night. There are exceptions to these timings when homework is particularly pleasurable to a child.

Homework free weeks will be provided for the first full week and the last full week of each term. Other homework free weeks may be communicated at other times over the year eg. during a special week like Mr Wuffles creativity week.

On occasions homework could be handed out over 2/3 week period rather than Monday to Friday.

Further information on frequency and timings will be provided to all parents at the curriculum meeting in September.

HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT OUR HOMEWORK POLICY?

1. By ensuring homework is done while your child is alert.
2. By trying to provide a calm atmosphere with as few distractions as possible.
3. By discussing the work with our child and working along with him/her, especially at the early stages.
4. By checking that the quality and presentation is of an acceptable standard and **signing** the work. By discussing any problems arising from homework with the teacher (please telephone for an appointment).
5. By extending the work when appropriate perhaps by supplying a relevant book, visiting the library or a place of interest connected with the work.
6. By showing interest and praising good efforts

HOLIDAYS

Classwork will not be given to pupils going on holiday. This is because your child will not have been part of the teaching and learning involved with the tasks. However your children should be encouraged to keep a holiday diary and continue with their reading.

FINAL POINTS

1. Teachers would appreciate it if homework jotters were covered and kept in a clean and tidy condition i.e. no graffiti.
2. Your child will ask you to sign their homework jotter.
3. Parents will be reminded in an advice note pasted at the start of the homework jotters that they are not expected to spend more than the allotted time each night and can write a note in the homework jotter to let the teacher know where there has been a difficulty.
4. Teachers are expected to routinely check that the level of challenge in homework is appropriate. They will always endeavour to be sensitive to the needs of children with English as an additional language and to those who have additional support needs (including very able children) when giving homework.
5. Where homework has not been completed or is not of an acceptable standard teachers should
 - alert parents and explore possible reasons at an early stage
 - routinely ask children to either complete or redo at playtime or lunchtime whilst supervised (if this happens more than twice during a short period of time teachers are encouraged to contact parents to discuss)
6. ***Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at an early stage should you feel that any aspect of your child's homework is causing concern.***

Jennifer Ross

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