



St. Mary's Primary School Bannockburn

Homework Policy



Stirling Council
Children's Services

August 2021

Aims

Our aims are to: -

- help reinforce and extend children's learning
- provide opportunities to work independently thus developing good study habits and self-discipline
- encourage ownership and responsibility for learning
- help train pupils in planning and organising time
- offer challenging opportunities for research and discovery
- promote partnership between school and home
- provide tasks which are relevant to the child's age, aptitude and ability.

Rationale

The main focus for learning will be across literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in providing opportunities for children to reconnect with school and their teachers. Homework will continue to add an important dimension to the education of pupils in St. Mary's Primary school.

Homework activities will be reflective of the approaches to learning practised in class, for example implementation of active and contextualised learning. Engaging children in contextualised learning, outside of school, enables them to apply their skills in a meaningful way.

Homework tasks will also provide opportunities for skills practice so as to develop pupil mastery in aspects of maths and literacy, for example, learning the times tables, revising spelling rules etc. Through our homework policy and practice we endeavour to ensure that every pupil will be provided with a range of activities and experiences. This will provide an opportunity for children to consolidate, reflect and build upon their learning and experiences in the classroom and ultimately foster a curiosity and love for learning.

Homework is more likely to be valued by pupils when it is related to classwork, well planned, has a clear purpose and is interesting. It should vary according to the needs of the individual and should be challenging but not too difficult and should promote confidence through success.

Purpose of Homework

Our establishment firmly believes that issuing regular, varied, meaningful and interesting home learning will:

Strengthen partnership between home and school

Enable parents/ carers to participate in their child's learning

Promote self-reliance, self-discipline, self-confidence and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning.

Develop children's ability to plan and organise their work and to make appropriate choices to further their learning

Pupil's Role

Pupils should: -

- be responsible for their homework diary and or accessing Google Classroom
- complete allocated work to the best of their ability within the set time
- take responsibility for ensuring that tasks are understood
- share tasks with parents
- ask parents to sign completed work where appropriate
- respect homework materials

Parent's Role

Parents should: -

- check their child's homework diary and/or Google Classroom
- encourage your child to complete homework tasks
- provide, where possible, a suitable quiet, work orientated study area
- ensure a reasonable standard of presentation of work
- sign completed tasks where appropriate
- comment in the pupils homework diary and/or Google Classroom if appropriate
- support staff by valuing your child's efforts.

Teacher's Role

- set homework tasks which are varied, interesting and challenging
- ensure that clear instructions are given for each task
- set work which is appropriate to children's ability and classwork
- provide suitable feedback on children's efforts.

POSSIBLE TASKS FOR HOMEWORK CAN BE:

Early Level (P1 – P2)

- Learning new words
- Reading with or to a parent
- Phonics or spelling work
- Writing
- Recognition of numbers
- Mathematical reinforcement activities of games, collecting materials for use in class etc.

1st Level (P3 – P5)

- Practice in mathematical processes and language conventions
- Spelling practice
- Pieces of writing
- Reading
- Gathering information for projects etc.
- Sacramental Preparation

2nd Level (P6 – P7)

- Includes the above activities
- Problem solving tasks

- Researching information for class project work
- Preparing a talk which will take a number of nights.
- Sacramental Preparation

Unfinished work

In general, unfinished work should not go home on a regular basis. If however a teacher is satisfied that a pupil has failed to complete tasks due to lack of effort then the pupil may be asked to finish these at home. This work will have been considered by the teacher to be well within the pupil's capability and enough time for completion to have been given in class.

However if a child continues to have difficulty in completing tasks in the appropriate time then the class teacher should identify the difficulties the child is encountering and look to put in place strategies to support the child. If this still continues then the SLT should be consulted.

Recommended time for Homework

Primary 1, 2 and 3 10-15 minutes per night with particular emphasis on reading/sounds/number work.

Primary 4, 5 and 6 Activities as appropriate to these classes. Approx. 60 minutes per week.

Primary 7 Approx. 30 minutes per night to reflect the increasing importance of homework and home study in the learning process with regard to transfer from primary to secondary.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is a web-based learning environment. When logged into Google Classroom, students can collaborate with their peers and teachers. Google Classroom offers a digital safe space for students to view class tasks, access learning materials, view posted assignments, and turn in completed work.

This year our main form of sharing homework will be shared with pupils via Google Classroom. Our P2 – P7 pupils and families are already familiar with using this platform which is a collaborative online space where staff and pupils can share information, resources and assignments.

All classes have access to Google Classroom and from 2021/22 all children in P4 to P7 will have access to a Chromebook. Some children who may have difficulties accessing Google Classroom, may require to use a homework diary where any homework (reading, language, maths, topic, etc.) is recorded, as well as any other information relevant to the child or parent. There is also a place for a parent's signature and opportunity for any other communication from the parent.

Parents should use homework diaries and/or Google Classrooms as another means of communication with the school i.e. comments are welcomed.

Shared Learning at Home

During the school session class teachers may send Share Learning activities home. There should be a limit as to how many activities are set and a time allocation should be involved. Due to the Shared Learning activities being sent home other homework may have to be set aside for the duration of the Shared Learning in keeping with the time allocation for homework.

Monitoring and Support

Homework will be checked and commented on by the class teacher.

Homework should be regarded as a voluntary activity and every encouragement should be given to motivate pupils to complete tasks. When a positive approach is adopted pupils will see homework as having a value and will be motivated to complete their tasks. Failure to complete homework should be discussed initially with the pupil and also with parents where applicable..

If a young person continues to experience difficulties in completing homework activities then it may be more appropriate for them to attend the Homework Club. This club has been established to support children who through a number of reasons, not all of their own making, are unable to complete a homework task in a predetermined time frame. The Homework Club is run Monday to Thursday from 2:30 to 2:50 in the Dinner Hall. An SLA is available to support the young people in their activities. If a Class Teacher feels that a child would benefit from joining this club then they should speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) The SLT will monitor homework throughout the school as part of the school's programme of evaluating the effectiveness of learning and teaching.

Monitoring and Review of Monitoring of Homework Policy

Evaluation and review of the policy for Homework as part of our quality assurance procedures and during audits within the School Improvement Plan cycle.

Date		Staff Lead
Produced	August 2014	
Updated	August 2021	Thomas Joyce, Headteacher
Review	August 2023	