



Fishermoss School Homework Policy

At Fishermoss we aim to develop a strong and effective partnership with parents. We believe that as part of our home / school links our pupils will undertake homework tasks related to their work in school.

All homework aims to reinforce work carried out in class:

- to provide an opportunity for children to consolidate skills and knowledge taught in class
- to encourage, from an early age, the good habit of revising new skills and extending knowledge through independent research
- to foster a meaningful and participative link between home and school
- to provide all children with an opportunity to share and evaluate their learning at home

Homework tasks are set:

- to consolidate work done in school
- to ensure reading taught in school is regularly reinforced and supported at home
- to develop research skills using newspapers, books, viewing specific TV programmes, using internet and observing their immediate environment
- to give prior preparation for a learning experience in class e.g. individual talks, Big Talk
- when work undertaken during school is unfinished due to lack of application by the pupil

Note – Internet facilities and other resources are available for pupil use at the Portlethen Academy library.

Parent/Guardian Involvement

- children should be encouraged to complete tasks without distraction i.e. with the TV switched off, and work at a time when they are still fresh i.e. not just before bedtime or first thing in the morning before school
- parents are encouraged to support their child when undertaking homework tasks
- parents should feel free to provide feedback to school whenever difficulties arise
- parents will not be asked to teach a concept, but should acknowledge homework with an initial, to show that they are aware that homework has been set and completed

Time Spent on Homework

In P1-3 the maximum time spent on homework should be 20-30 minutes per session.

In P4-7 the maximum time spent on homework should be 30-40 minutes per session.

During the summer term the amount and frequency of written homework may be reduced. This will encourage the children to take advantage of the better weather and lighter evenings and participate in healthy activities. Special events, which may occur during the course of the year, may require a change in the homework programme.

Teachers will give children a completion date for homework. This could extend over a weekend to enable families flexibility. Homework set will often be spread over more than one night.

Homework Diaries

Every pupil has a homework diary appropriate to their age and stage. Key purposes of the Homework Diary are:

- to promote and encourage children to share their learning experiences at home.
- communication tool
- reporting to parents-termly effort/behaviour/attitude and interim reports in terms 2 & 3

The School Motto, Vision, Values, Aims, Golden Rules, Dining Hall Golden Rules & Playground Golden Rules are all in your child's homework diary. We appreciate parents discussing and reinforcing these with their child(ren) at home. There is also a section in the homework diary for parents to sign to indicate they have specifically discussed the Golden Rules at home.

Homework hints, along with lots of other useful information to support **Family Learning**, are included in the Home Diary, which we would encourage you to share with your child.

Comments or brief communication for the teacher are welcome and encouraged in the homework diary. Please make your child aware of this so they can take some responsibility for sharing this with the teacher.

If a child is finding their homework task too difficult, the task should be abandoned and school notified through the homework diary.

Failure to complete homework should be explained by a note from the parent in the homework diary.

Checking Homework

Homework may be checked by parents/staff or by self / peer assessment where answers are shared and discussed and children learn from their mistakes.

When checked by the teacher, there is an emphasis on oral feedback and appropriate comments and incentives may be included.

Children will be encouraged to use the traffic light system to evaluate their work, guidance regarding the traffic light system is in the Homework diary.

Failure to regularly return homework will result in parents being informed and appropriate action and support being agreed.

Policy revised January 2018-draft

Final version agreed Parent Council February 2018