

Meadowburn Primary School Bun Sgoil Innis an Uillt



HOME LEARNING POLICY

Revised February 2015

Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences on children's lives. Parents who take on a supportive role in their children's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour.

Education Scotland

Rationale

At Meadowburn, we believe that homework is a vital link in the working partnership between children, parents and staff. Homework tasks that are completed at home enables children to appreciate the help and support of their families as well as enabling parents/carers to be regularly involved in their children's education.

Aims

Within Meadowburn Primary the purpose of homework is to:

- Enable parents/carers to participate in their child's learning, providing a valuable link between home and school
- Provide an opportunity for children to consolidate, reflect and build upon their learning in the classroom
- Develop children's responsibility for planning and organising their work, developing self-discipline, routines and study skills.

Responsibilities

Teachers should:

- Set varied and appropriate homework tasks to reflect the needs of the class
- Ensure tasks are fully communicated and understood
- Check on homework tasks (this may include various marking strategies such as teacher, peer-group and self-correction) and recognise and reward effort and work well done
- Monitor the progress of children

Pupils should:

- Complete homework tasks as specified on time
- Ensure parents/carers know the task(s) to be completed and ask for support if necessary
- Discuss any difficulties with the teacher as soon as they arise
- Ensure the same level of effort and presentation as would be expected in class

Parents should:

- Be active in supporting their child's learning e.g. pacing of homework over the week
- Provide a suitable home learning environment
- Check tasks for effort/presentation and sign the homework diary
- Inform the teacher if any problems occur

If any homework task causes your child to become stressed or upset, please leave the task until another time and contact the teacher if this persists.

What kind of tasks will be set?

Homework tasks should be set appropriately, reflecting ongoing class work based around the different areas of the curriculum. Homework takes many forms and will focus on the development and application of skills such as researching, designing and gathering information as well as practice activities such as tables, spelling, reading. Some specific homework tasks might include:

Spelling: P2 and P3 pupils focus on common words and phonics; P4 (but sometimes at the end of P3) pupils work on the *Nelson* or *Master Your Spelling* programme, grouped by ability. Specialist vocabulary linked to topics or other learning in class may also be set on occasion.

Research Projects/Personal Topics: Children in the upper primary stages may be asked to carry out a project involving some research. The teacher will provide a clear outline of what is expected and the project be set over a number of weeks if necessary to allow for visits to libraries etc.

Home Learning Grids: Once a year, pupils will complete a 'Home Learning Grid.' This approach was developed in consultation with the Parent Council and reflects the principles of 'challenge and enjoyment' and 'personalisation and choice,' as outlined in Curriculum for Excellence. The grid details a range of possible home learning activities linked to a specific theme or topic to be completed over a 4 week period.

I think it was really interesting to do the different activities - it challenged us to do our best because we shared all our Home Learning in class and made a display for the parents to see. Pupil comment

I think the Home Learning Grids work very well and are a fantastic way to get kids and parents working together in a supportive way that helps the children's' learning. Parent comment

I think it's really fun. The teacher doesn't tell you what you've got to do only what you could do. You can pick and make it your own. Pupil comment

What else will the school do to involve parents in their child's learning?

Parents are the first and ongoing educators of their own children and, as such, should receive information and support to help develop their child's learning at home and in the community.

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- Each pupil will be given a homework diary. This gives teachers and parents/carers the opportunity to comment on children's progress and effort and offers a two-way communication between home and school.
- There will be an annual 'Meet the Teacher' night at the start of each session when homework will be explained to parents/carers and there will be an opportunity to have questions answered. The presentations used at this event will be available on the school website for all parents/carers to view.
- Weekly homework information for each class will be available in the class pages on the school website (paper copies will be provided on request).

For useful tips on supporting learning at home visit the Parentzone section on Education Scotland's website: <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learningathome/index.asp>