

PORTLETHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



HOMEWORK POLICY

(REVISED FEBRUARY 2013)

'A better way to describe homework might be 'learning out of school'. Children learn a great deal at school, you can add to that learning by supporting them at home with reading together, writing and counting'. Education Scotland – Supporting Children at Home

At Portlethen Primary School, homework is seen as an integral part of a child's education, forming an important link between home and school.

REASONS FOR GIVING HOMEWORK

- To involve parents directly in the child's education by making them aware of the curriculum
- To encourage in every child the self discipline of study and the development of a positive attitude towards learning.
- To consolidate and reinforce work done in class.
- To develop reading skills.
- To encourage individual research.

TIME SPENT ON HOMEWORK

- It is expected that children spend an average of 20/ 30 minutes daily on homework assignments, depending on their age and stage and on the type of assignment. If after 30 minutes there are problems completing homework the activity should stop.
- Normally homework will be given on a daily basis. It **may** sometimes be given out at the beginning of a week allowing some flexibility in the completion of assignments. Some research, or the learning of a poem may be over a two to three week period.
- Homework is not normally set over a weekend, however in liaison with parents/carers, we can be flexible should a parent/carer wish.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

- At all stages a variety of activities will be given; literacy, numeracy and topic work.
- Tasks given will have a clear purpose and match the ability of the child.
- Children are expected to try their best.
- GLOW may be used as a medium for the sharing and completion of homework assignments

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES:

Reading preparation/consolidation
Spelling activities
Learning number bonds and tables
Maths or Language consolidation
Handwriting practice
Learning poems, songs, parts in plays
Completion of unfinished class work
Writing in various forms
The preparation of a talk to give to the class.

Research of various kinds:

- From the media e.g. TV, radio, newspapers, internet.
- From books available at home, school, the library.
- In the home e.g. drawing a plan of a room
- collecting labels etc. conducting a food survey
- Into the past e.g. by talking to an elderly relative/neighbour, compiling a family tree, finding photos

PARENT/CARER ROLE

Parents/Carers have an invaluable contribution to make by showing interest, giving support and ensuring that tasks set are completed to the best of their child's ability with regard to both content and presentation.

They should give help and advice as necessary but stop short of actually doing the task themselves. However, reading activities will require active parental participation to be of any significant benefit. This varies depending on age and stage. At the early stages parents/carers should read together with the child and encourage them then to read on their own. It is also important to discuss the text at all stages i.e.

- ask questions about the main ideas, the characters and their feelings.
- try to predict what happens next.
- talk about the type of book (fiction or non fiction)
- talk about the style of writing (poetry, report, letter, play)
- discuss the meaning of vocabulary used.

All assignments should be checked and signed by the parent (with a comment if wished).

If any problems arise concerning homework, parents should not hesitate to contact the teacher.

SCHOOL ROLE

Homework activities are monitored by the teachers as part of on-going assessment

Homework will be recognised and praised to promote confidence.

Children who consistently fail to complete homework activities will be referred to promoted staff. Parents will be made aware of the situation and asked for their support. Children who regularly fail to complete homework after parents have been informed may be given the opportunity to complete tasks within school.

Homework can make a significant contribution to the learning process in primary school and be an important preparation for the independent study required in later years.