



Laurencekirk Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Written

October 2014

Review

August 2016



UNCRC Article 29: Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.

Introduction

Home learning is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime or playing a board game is helping with home learning.

Rationale for home learning

Home learning is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of teachers and parents in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see home learning as an important way of establishing a meaningful dialogue between children, teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. Home learning is one way in which children can develop the skills to learn for themselves and therefore to develop their understanding further.

We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While home learning is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives and development of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

"Research consistently demonstrates that where parents are involved with their children's education and learning both at home and in partnership with the school, their children do better and achieve more. These benefits can be long-lasting and extend to better health, relationships and improved employment prospects".

Education Scotland 2014



How was this policy created?

This policy was created in consultation with pupils, parents/carers and staff. In July and August 2014 all pupils, parents and staff completed a questionnaire to give their opinion on the way forward for home learning at Laurencekirk.

Home learning Aims and Purposes

At Laurencekirk Primary School, we believe homework to be important because:

- ◆ It creates a positive and meaningful communication between home and school
- ◆ It provides an opportunity for families to be involved in children's learning
- ◆ It enables parents to see how children are progressing
- ◆ It encourages children to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop independence
- ◆ It allows practice and consolidation of work done in class
- ◆ It develops good habits of study and self discipline
- ◆ It provides training for children in planning and organising their time and in meeting deadlines
- ◆ It develops skills in using libraries and other learning resources
- ◆ It provides opportunities for children to prepare for future class work
- ◆ It encourages children to extend their learning out with school.

What home learning could your child get?

The home learning will be a consolidation or extension of the work your child is already doing in class and will consist of activities from a variety of curricular areas.

The following are some of the types of activities that are particularly appropriate for home learning:

- Learning sight vocabulary (P1/2)
- Reading practice and follow up comprehension
- Spelling words and related follow up
- Times tables and number bonds
- Maths Homework
- Prepared talks /debates
- Bringing objects for topic work
- Personal research/emergent interest activities
- Activities for Science, Social Subjects, ICT, Music, PE, Art and Design and Technology
- Seasonal activities-assembly words, activities to celebrate Scottish culture e.g. poems, songs, art work or preparation for concerts



- Current affairs
- Jolly Phonics
- Dictionary and thesaurus work
- Recognition and formation of numbers
- Mental arithmetic
- Problem solving
- Surveys and questionnaires
- ICT and GLOW

The length of time spent on homework will vary depending on the age and stage of the child.

A rough guide is as follows:-

P1- 3 - an average of 15 minutes per night

P4 - 5 - an average of 1.5 hours per week

P6- 7 - an average of 2 hours per week

The following are guidelines that staff can follow to set home learning at any given stage. Teachers working at a similar stage should consult with each other at the start of the year to ensure consistency between classes.

Primary One

Sounds then reading and words - four nights a week

Then gradually introduce children to homework routines including:

Maths activities and games

Creative activities for Science, Social Subjects, ICT, Music, PE, Art and Design and Technology

Primary Two

Reading and words to learn - four nights a week

Spelling activity - weekly

Maths - as appropriate to support class work

Primary Three

Spelling/phonics activity - weekly

Reading - four nights a week

Maths - as appropriate to support class work



Pupils in Primary Four to Primary Seven will be expected to practise the times tables.

Some pupils in Primary 4 -7 will still be taking books home to read and share with their parents, guidance will be given from the teacher.

Other pupils should also be encouraged to read a book of their own choice from the library or their own novel from home for enjoyment or to research topics that interest them. The teaching of reading in Laurencekirk Primary involves children reading a novel in class. These novels will not normally be sent home for homework. There are some novels which are quite challenging and the children may have a lot to read from them. In this case the novel will come home but must be returned the next day.

Primary Four

Spelling/vocabulary activity - on a regular basis

Reading - children's own choice

Maths - every two or three weeks (as appropriate to support a block of teaching)

Homework grid of curricular activities allowing for pupil choice

Primary 5

Spelling/vocabulary activity - on a regular basis

Reading - children's own choice

Maths - as appropriate to support a block of teaching

Homework grid of curricular activities allowing for pupil choice

Primary 6

Spelling/vocabulary activity - on a regular basis

Reading - children's own choice

Maths - as appropriate to support a block of teaching

Homework grid of curricular activities allowing for pupil choice

Primary 7

Spelling/vocabulary activity - on a regular basis

Reading - children's own choice

Maths - as appropriate to support a block of teaching

Homework grid of curricular activities allowing for pupil choice



Additional Information

The home learning given will be differentiated by the teacher and explained to the pupils so that they can complete their work. The pupils should have plenty of time to complete their tasks. Each teacher will inform children and parents of due dates for homework to be returned. The criteria for marking the home learning will be set by the teacher and explained to the pupils.

What can parents do to help?

- Take an interest and talk about your child's homework.
- Encourage your child to carry out homework tasks in a suitable place, where there are no distractions and at an appropriate time.
- Encourage your child to take pride in their work, offering praise and encouragement.
- Give support if required but avoid actually doing the task for the child.
- Make use of the Homework Diary as a means of communication between home and school.
- Check finished homework, ensuring neat presentation, correct use of punctuation and encourage your child to check spellings.
- Sign and date your child's homework when it is complete to show you are satisfied with their effort.
- Encourage children to be organised and take responsibility for handing work in on time

Unfinished work due to lack of application may be sent home although this should not occur on a regular basis. Should there be the need to repeatedly send work home then enquiries will be made by the teacher as to why the work is not being completed in school hours. Provisions should be put in place to ensure that the child can complete their work.

It is Laurencekirk Primary School policy that if a child has a short absence or is absent due to unauthorised holidays, work is not sent home to be completed. So much of the curriculum is delivered using active approaches and tasks after direct input from the teachers and it is therefore not appropriate to expect pupils to complete work that has not been taught to them. After a short absence and if it is required, pupils will be supported in class once they return to school in order for them to catch up on any work that they have missed.

Further advice and support can be found on the Scottish Governments' Parentzone website: www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk