

Portrush PS

Homework Policy

Reviewed December 2015



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Aims and Objectives:

1. An opportunity for the practice, application and consolidation of work done in school.
2. To promote a sense of independence and self-discipline.
3. To help establish self-confidence.
4. To foster a link between home and school so that parents become involved in their child's education.
5. To prepare for the child's future education and to establish a pattern of learning beyond the school environment.

Introduction

Homework in Portrush Primary School will normally be set throughout the three school terms. Primary 1 and Primary 2 homework will consist of phonics, reading and number work. These will form the basis of the content. In Primary 3 and Primary 4 more written homework will be introduced and children will have up to 10 spellings a week to learn. From Primary 5 to Primary 7 more written homework will be set and while the basis still remains Literacy and Numeracy, a greater variety of content will be introduced to cover all areas of the curriculum that the child studies in school.

In the following pages a description of the content and time for homework at each primary is set out in more detail. The times are given as a guide and the child may take longer, or shorter, to complete the work. Some children like to take a bit longer over homework so as to produce their best work and this is commendable but if the time spent seems very long parents should contact the class teacher to discuss the obvious difficulties the child is having.

Foundation Stage

Primary 1

Primary 1 homework will consist of consolidation activities from the "Jolly Phonics" programme taught in class. This may include written activity sheets.

It should be emphasised that children will not have a reading book until they have reached the required and critical level of readiness. It is pointless to push a child to read until he has developed maturity to do so.

Homework should take no longer than 10-15 minutes and plenty of praise and encouragement is needed to help each child progress at their own rate.

Primary 2

At the beginning of the year homework will consist of a revision and consolidation of words, sounds and number facts already taught. Once established the Primary 2 child can expect about 15 minutes of homework a night consisting of the consolidation of what has been done in school. Unseen books will not be sent home. Spellings will begin in the third term.

Key Stage 1

Primary 3 and Primary 4

The confidence and ability of the child is growing and homeworks will try to reflect the wider interests and capabilities of the pupil. There will be reading, spellings and number facts outlined in a Homework Diary. Reading homework will be a consolidation of what has been introduced and prepared in class. Spellings will be related mainly to the Jolly Phonics Programme. Number facts should be memorised nightly. At this stage written homework will be set on two or three nights per week.

Occasionally the child may be requested to observe and research for project and topic work being carried out in school.

At this stage the time spent on homework should be not more than 30 minutes.

Key Stage 2

At this stage written homework will be set on three nights a week - normally Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

A considerable difference in the nature and content of homework will be noticed once the child has reached Primary 5. However the underlying principles noted earlier remain the same. The practice of work learnt in school is still paramount but there will be increasing opportunities for the child to show initiative and self-discipline. Parents are encouraged to support children with homework - this is of great value.

At this level homework is often thought of as a purely written exercise but this is not the case and a common element of homework throughout P5-P7 will be spellings and tables. We consider these to be vital components running alongside either a written, research or observation homework and they will normally be set every night.

Primary 5

The complete homework should take around 30 minutes at the beginning of the year and 40 minutes towards the end.

Primary 6

The complete homework here should be in the range of 30-40 minutes although the children will now be expected to complete much more in the allotted time.

Primary 7

In preparation for the move to secondary school homework may take an extended length of time.

Conclusion

The school has a strong belief in the value of homework and will strive to set work matched to the ability of the child. This work will be marked in school and should give the parent a guide as to their child's progress.

Children who go on holidays during the year will not have work provided for them by the class teacher.