

Mullaglass Primary School



Homework Policy

September 2022

AIMS OF POLICY

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework at Mullaglass Primary School.
- To identify our shared views of good practice.
- To establish how homework will be organised and how we ensure progression across the school.
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.
- To make clear the ways in which we aim to ensure that the policy makes an important contribution to the quality of teaching and learning in the school.

DEFINITION

At Mullaglass Primary School we view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning.

PURPOSE

The purpose of homework at Mullaglass Primary School is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. It enables children to practise and consolidate skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. Finally, it aims to enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.

RANGE OF HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

A variety of tasks are used to meet planned learning objectives. These can include:

- Speaking and listening activities
- Reading
- Spelling and word investigations
- Phonic activity
- Table facts
- Reading comprehension
- Independent research
- Practical maths investigations / games
- Collecting items linked to a theme
- Educational games
- Written numeracy & literacy

GUIDELINES

- Homework will normally be given for Monday to Thursday evenings, but there are exceptions at certain times of the year; these being agreed in advance by the school leadership.
- Incomplete or homework completed unsatisfactorily, will be returned as soon as possible by the teacher for completion or correction at home.
- A failure to complete homework will require homework to be completed the following night at home.
- Homework completed within After School Clubs will be in line with the guidelines below and parents will be expected to check as normal. Children will not do reading and spelling activities in After School Clubs as this is good for children and parent bonding and for parents to gain an understanding of their child's strengths or areas for development.
- The nature and amount of work to be completed at home will depend on the age and ability of the child. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the progress of their academic development.

COMPLETION OF HOMEWORK

- If you are dissatisfied with your child's written work have it repeated but do not tear out or cross out the original effort.
- If your child is having particular difficulties do not supply the answers, rather make a note on the page and the teacher will deal with the problem.
- If for any reason your child is unable to complete a homework because of another commitment, missing book etc. please send a written explanation to the class teacher. In such circumstances the teacher will decide the appropriate course of action.

QUERIES ABOUT HOMEWORK

If your child has a problem completing the homework or you have any questions, please call to make an appointment to speak to the class teacher or write a note in their homework book. We will do all that we can to resolve the problem. Your support in the process is vital for children's success in developing self-study skills as they move on up through the school.

PUPILS WHO ARE ABSENT

If a child is absent due to illness it is the policy of the school not to send homework home. The assumption would be that the child was too ill to work. If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what homework should be completed, how it should be marked and what sort of support is required to help the pupil. This will be done in consultation with the principal. Teachers will not prepare classwork/homework for a child who is being withdrawn from school for a family holiday.

HOLIDAY PREPARATIONS & EXCEPTIONS

Normal homework provision will occur each and every week of school term. Near to the end of term, in the final week/s, and on occasions throughout the year, there will be no homework set for various nights.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Learning is a shared responsibility between pupils, parents and teachers.

Teachers' Responsibilities:

1. To provide suitably differentiated tasks.
2. To ensure that pupils and parents have a clear understanding of the task set.
3. To mark work and provide positive and constructive feedback where necessary.
4. To keep the principal informed about concerns.

Pupils' Responsibilities:

1. To take home the appropriate books, sheets and materials.
2. To hand work in on time.
3. To complete work as instructed and present it neatly.
4. To pack their bag, at home the night before, and come to school prepared for all the next day's activities eg. sports, music, clubs etc.

Parents' Responsibilities:

1. To provide a suitable quiet working atmosphere.
2. To supervise homework tasks.
3. To check homework notes to find out what tasks have been set.
4. To listen to reading and talk about what has been read.
5. To listen and discuss strategies in mental maths homework.
6. To listen to and discuss other oral homework (e.g. spellings).
7. To encourage children to persevere with tasks and continually give of their best.
8. Check written homework ensuring that the assignment has been completed and the parent is happy with the standard and presentation.

ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL AND THE GOVERNORS

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- To inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the policy and what it entails.
- To direct coordinators to sample homework throughout the year for monitoring purposes.

Support Note: Homework should not develop into a conflict situation between parent and child. Nor should homework develop into a situation where the parent becomes a teacher. If either of these situations develop your child's teacher should be contacted immediately so that the problem can be resolved.

Please see below for a summary of what we expect to set for homework and the length of time it should take.

Year	Tasks	Homework Time (Approx. Per Night)
Primary 1	Guided Reading Reinforcement of words taught in school / HFW words Oral development of initial sounds leading to practise letter formations Phonic activities Activity homework booklet e.g. oral / practical activities / sound / number cards	10 – 15 minutes
Primary 2	Guided Reading HFW words One phonic/literacy written activity per week One mental maths written activity per week Friday Test for spellings and table facts	15 – 20 minutes
Primary 3	Guided Reading Linguistic phonics including a range of activities Short written homework in Numeracy & Literacy (2x a week) Daily and Friday Test for spellings and tables	20 – 25 minutes
Primary 4	Guided Reading Linguistic phonics including a range of activities Written or learning homework (2x a week) Daily and Friday Test for spellings and tables	25 – 30 minutes
Primary 5	Either Guided Reading or Independent Reading Linguistic phonics including a range of activities Written or learning homework (2x a week) Daily and Friday Test for spellings and tables	30 – 40 minutes
Primary 6	Independent Reading Linguistic phonics including a range of activities Written or learning homework (2x a week) or AQE Preparation (March onward) Daily and Friday Test for spellings and tables	40 – 50 minutes
Primary 7	Independent Reading Linguistic phonics including a range of activities Written or learning homework (2x a week) or AQE Preparation (Sept-Nov) Daily and Friday Test for spellings and tables	45 – 55 minutes