



Greenisland Primary School

Homework Policy



Ratified by Board of Governors:

Update due:



Homework Policy.

Homework is seen as a necessary and worthwhile extension of classroom teaching and discipline. It is integral to the ethos of the school. It encourages self-discipline and self-reliance in the children and prepares them for the home study expected at post-primary level. Homework provides opportunities for both pupils and parents.

It provides an opportunity for pupils:

- ✚ to work independently of the teacher.
- ✚ to practise and consolidate what they have learned in school.
- ✚ to learn number facts/tables and spellings.
- ✚ to practise reading skills.
- ✚ to, on occasions, do some simple research to foster and create interest.

It provides an opportunity for parents to:

- ✚ co-operate and work with their child,
- ✚ gain an awareness of the type of work being covered in class,
- ✚ foster positive work habits in their child at home,
- ✚ create a partnership between teachers and parents as primary educators of their children.

Homeworks in each class are as follows:

Foundation Stage

- ✚ P1- two practical or written homeworks each week, three phonics/reading/numeracy homeworks weekly.
- ✚ P2- up to four written or practical homeworks each week, spellings and number facts Monday-Thursday, reading each evening.

Key Stage One

- ✚ P3- up to three written or online homeworks each week, spellings and number facts Monday-Thursday, reading each evening.

- ✚ P4- four homeworks each week, spellings and number facts/times tables Monday-Thursday, reading each evening.

Key Stage 2

- ✚ P5- P7 will have four homeworks each week alongside reading, spellings and tables Monday-Thursday.
The same timescale applies to online homework.

Time spent on homework activities:

At Greenisland Primary School we realise the pressure parents are under and appreciate children may have other sporting or youth group commitments each evening. Therefore;

- ✚ In Foundation Stage homework should take approximately 20 minutes.
- ✚ In KS1 homework should take approximately 30 minutes.
- ✚ In KS2 homework should take approximately 45 minutes.
- ✚ There will be no homework set at the weekends apart from during SEAG preparations for P6 and P7 when a weekend paper will be taken home. The paper is completed if time permits.
- ✚ If your child is struggling to complete tasks, please let the class teacher know.

*Children should be settled, focused with minimal distractions for the time periods above.

Parents can help their child/children by:

- ✚ Ensuring that a proper time is set aside for homework each evening.
- ✚ Providing a quiet atmosphere.
- ✚ Insisting that all written homework is neatly and conscientiously done to the best of their child's ability, then signed by a parent.
- ✚ Communication with the Principal or teachers of any difficulties or problems encountered during completion of homework. This will alleviate any unnecessary anxieties or stress.
- ✚ Supervising any activities to be completed on the computer/internet.






Please note:

- ✓ Homework can cover any aspects of the curriculum.
- ✓ Spellings may be written out at home. (Please see notes on teaching spellings for details).
- ✓ 'Various sources of reading material' refers to the core reading scheme, extension readers, library books, books related to topics and novels.
- ✓ Discussion of the children's reading material is important throughout each key stage.
- ✓ It should be stressed that a 'reading about' or 'finding out' homework is as important as a 'written' one.
- ✓ ICT: The school will encourage the children to prepare and complete their homework using ICT resources where appropriate.

When appropriate, children may word process their English homework. They may also use the Internet (under parental supervision) to access information related to topics being covered in class.

Those children who do not have access to a computer at home may be given time in school, to complete tasks using the school's computers.

Teaching of Spelling:

-  Children will look at and say the word. Attention will be drawn to any spelling or phonic rules.
-  The word will be covered and written down.
-  Checked to see if it is correct.
-  This process will be repeated if the word is incorrectly spelt.
-  When parents are asking their children spellings at home, they should encourage them to write these down.



Please Note:

Spellings are written out as part of homework from Primary 3 to the end of Primary 7.

Teaching of Reading:

When preparing their reading and your child comes to an unfamiliar or tricky word, pause to allow them time to use the following strategies where possible. You may need to prompt them to;

- ✓ Sound out using phonics, looking at the first and last sounds etc.
- ✓ Look for little words within or known letter patterns such as ing.
- ✓ Use rhyme where they can e.g. if they can read moon, they can read spoon.
- ✓ Use any available picture clues.
- ✓ Skip over the word to the end of the sentence and try it all again, which word would fit and make sense?

If these prompts have not succeeded, then help your child. Praise all efforts, we want all children to see themselves as readers and enjoy the process.

- ✓ In school children are encouraged to read with fluency and expression, pausing at commas and full stops. Please remind them to do so at home.
- ✓ Talk about their reading from pictures in P1 up to a character's motives in P7.
- ✓ Sign up to your local library and share bedtime stories with your child too.

Number facts and times tables.

It is very difficult to make progress in maths until all these are well learned. Your support is invaluable at practising and reinforcing these at home, allowing your child to be able to instantly answer double 5, $20 - 4$ or 9×12 etc. This puts them at a definite advantage when problem solving and completing calculations.

