

DUNDRY PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

***A beacon of hope on the hill; A small school making a BIG difference
"You are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14)***



Definition

Homework refers to any learning or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

The purpose of homework

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- To exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home.
- To extend school learning
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

We recognise that the purposes of homework change as children get older.

Foundation Stage

Some home activities are given to children to extend their learning at home and to develop the partnership between school and home. These may include any aspect of the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Key Stage One

To consolidate a partnership with parents or carers by involving them actively in children's learning is the key purpose. The focus of home activities is on English and maths. Children should either read to their parents, or listen to them reading, for between 10 to 20 minutes a day.

Short activities of different kinds, (reading together, learning spellings and number facts) provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

Key Stage Two

As children get older homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning and this increasingly becomes its main purpose. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not be long, to study on their own.

Homework still focuses on English and maths, but science and other subjects may be added as the children get older. Children should still read to their parents or alone for 20 minutes a day. It is also vital that parents read to their children whenever possible. Number tasks and language tasks may be set once a week. In addition to these regular tasks, older children could be given homework which requires them to find out information, read in preparation for lessons, undertake book reviews, prepare for oral presentations and undertake written assignments. The children will also receive a list of topic related creative tasks - they can choose which one they would like to complete and have a whole term to work on it.

The amount of homework

The precise amount of time set for homework is less important than the intrinsic value of the tasks. However, a broad guideline follows: -

In the Reception Year	10 minutes for reading
In Years 1 and 2	20 minutes for reading
In Years 3 and 4	20 minutes for reading
In Years 5 and 6	20 minutes for reading

In addition to this, other homework tasks, such as the learning of spellings and tables, will be set as appropriate. As children near the end of Key Stage 2, the amount of homework will increase to prepare the children for testing, or for the demands of Secondary School. The total amount of homework set, either daily or weekly, will be manageable for both teachers and pupils. The school recognises that some pupils with Special Educational Needs, or physical difficulties, may need adapted homework or extra time.

Please note that time allocations are for broad guidance only. Many children will wish to do more, while for others less may be appropriate. The school will be as positive and encouraging as possible.

From September 2020, homework for each year group is set as below:

Reception

Reading, practising key words and tricky words and playing maths games.

Year 1

Reading, spellings, playing maths games and one other task linked to science or topic.

Year 2

Reading, spellings, playing maths games and completing an English or maths task.

Key Stage 2

- Children in key stage 2 should read for 20 minutes (Minimum 4 times per week).
- Children have access to Times Tables Rock Stars and should use this to practise their times tables (by the end of Year 4 children should know all time tables up to 12X12).
- CGP books (Y5/6) will be provided and the teacher will set weekly tasks from these books as appropriate to the year group. These books will remain at home and the children will self-evaluate their learning and upload it using See-Saw for review by their class teacher.
- Topic related termly task.

Teachers will make it clear on See-Saw what the homework is for each week.

The children also have access to a range of games on Purple Mash.

The Role of Parents

Parents are encouraged to support children's homework in the following ways:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place for doing homework.
- Make it clear to children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress.
- Expect deadlines to be met and check that they are.
- Give praise for the completion of homework.

Feedback

Feedback will be provided in different ways including:

- Spelling tests results will be recorded in reading journals
- If children upload pictures of their work onto See-Saw, teachers will give written or verbal feedback.
- Children will self-evaluate their work on See-Saw and the teacher will discuss this with them.
- Children will receive whole class feedback on a task.

Monitoring and evaluating policies

We will monitor on a regular basis the contribution that homework is making to pupils' progress.

If children do not have access to the internet at home, hard copies of homework will be provided.

If a child constantly fails to meet deadlines for homework completion, or fails to complete homework in a given time, the teacher should explore the reasons for this and parents should also be consulted.

In response to parents' feedback, homework will not be set during holiday periods.

Reviewed

Review date