



HOMEWORK Policy

Introduction

'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, Parents as partners in learning

At Riverside we believe in developing a positive partnership between home and school. It is our belief that homework

- Provides opportunities for parents to share in their child's education
- Encourages pupils to develop skills and tools which are invaluable in the process of life long learning
- Encourages children to have ownership and responsibility for their own learning

Good Homework

After consultation with staff, parents/carers and children we have agreed that features of good homework are:

- Clear explanations/instructions
- Provides an element of choice, i.e. topic grids
- Varied and interesting topic
- Regular
- Explicit information about when to be completed
- Related to and reinforcing class work
- Provides a home-school link
- Provides opportunities for feedback to be given by parents/carers and children

Meeting Children's Needs

Children learn at different rates and in different ways therefore homework provided should vary according to needs and abilities of children. Homework will reinforce

learning in basic numeracy and literacy skills but there should also be opportunities at home to develop other areas of the curriculum.

In primaries 1-2 examples of activities may include:

- Sharing pages of reading
- Discussion using reading books
- Reinforcing sounds
- Finding out something or bringing in items for a class activity
- Maths activities or games

In primaries 3 - 7 examples of activities may include:

- Preparation of reading
- Spelling activities
- Maths activities
- Finding out some information in relation to projects
- Personal reading
- Preparation for an individual activity

To support Social Studies and Science all children will take part in at least 1 homework grid over the course of a year. These grids will contain a variety of activities to suit a range of learning styles and abilities incorporating an element of choice and will be able to be completed within the timescale given.

From primary 3, children will also have the opportunity to undertake at least 1 personal project with clear expectations linked to writing targets.

Throughout the year homework may be adjusted to prepare for special events such as class assemblies, focus weeks, Gaelic Mods and festivals and Burn's celebrations.

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff should:

- Give clear written explanations
- Set appropriate and achievable homework activities
- Set clear time frames which encompass a weekend
- Provide feedback in a variety of ways

Children should:

- Ensure they have information and resources to complete their homework
- Complete their homework activities to an appropriate standard

- Return homework to school in the required time
- Provide feedback in a variety of ways

Parents/Carers should:

- Encourage a positive attitude to homework by providing a suitable place to work
- Encourage and support their child in homework activities
- Sign work to let us know you have seen it
- Provide feedback in a variety of ways
- Please don't do the homework yourself!

If your child is having difficulties, discuss this with them and try to find a solution. If this isn't possible or your child is having particular difficulty please make a note in the homework.

'Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences on children's lives. Parents who take on a supportive role in their children's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour. Their support can play a vital role at all stages of education.'

Education Scotland website, Parents as partners in learning

www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentsaspartnersinlearning/index.asp