

Annbank Primary School



Homework Policy

2013/2014

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1.0 Rationale

In Annbank Primary School it is the expectation that homework procedures and expectations allow children to consolidate their learning in class and promote pupil choice as well as effective home links.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of setting homework are:

1. Allow children to practice and consolidate the learning done in class.
2. Allow for pupil choice.
3. Continue positive links between home and school as well as provide information for parents.
4. Develop skills in research using learning resources out with school.
5. Encourage pupils to be responsible for their own learning.

3.0 Roles & Responsibilities

Head Teacher / Depute Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the head/depute teacher to ensure that:

- Appropriate planning is undertaken to ensure quality, relevant homework activities are issued.
- The work undertaken by pupils is evaluated and any next steps in learning noted by class teachers.
- Appropriate resources are available within the school to support staff in the delivery of this policy.
- Information on the range and type of homework tasks issued at each stage is shared with parents.

Class Teachers

It is the responsibility of class teachers to:

- Set meaningful and appropriate homework tasks to pupils.
- Ensure a variety of homework tasks which reflect all curricular areas.
- Ensure that parents are informed of homework tasks.
- Use the homework policy when relevant and keep management informed of any difficulties arising.

School Assistants

It is the responsibility of classroom assistants:

- To assist the class teacher and pupils with administration of the materials required for homework tasks between home and school and complete the tasks for the agreed dates.

Pupils:

It is the responsibility of pupils:

- To take tasks home, set by class teachers and confirm they know what has been asked of them.
- To ensure that the appropriate tools and materials are taken home to complete set tasks.
- To return work to school on the appropriate day, completed to the best of their ability and highlight any difficulties to the class teacher.

4.0 LITERACY

Practising reading skills at home has a very positive effect on the rate at which a child will progress in school. Normally children in P1-P3 will have a small amount of reading homework on most evenings. From Primary 4 onwards children will be asked to read a set amount for the week, which may be from a reading book, library book or class novel and or have a task related to their topic in class. Children at all stages of the school should be given access to a wide variety of reading materials and encouraged to continue this at home. This is taught right from Primary 1 with pupils learning their phonics alphabet and how to blend sounds to make words.

Pupils will then progress through the Jolly Phonics Programme in P1/2. Homework activities may be finding pictures of items that begin with specific sounds, repeated writing the words to ensure the correct spelling, games with words, grammar work, story writing etc. All teachers issue reading and spelling homework weekly.

Children are encouraged to use their Literacy skills in real life contexts such as newspapers, signs in shops and reading the T.V. guide.

5.0 NUMERACY

Within mathematics, homework can take a number of different forms. At the early stages counting, ordering, adding and subtracting will constitute some of the homework tasks. This should be done with an adult at home.

In first and second level stages the school mental maths activities may be shared with an adult, further practice of a topic covered in class, problem solving and tables practice may constitute homework.

It is important that homework issued promotes transferable skills, e.g. recognition of money is important when using money in shops.

6.0 HOMEWORK RECORDS

All pupils in school have a homework diary or reading record, which should be used to set homework tasks or reminders.

Infants will have specific tasks noted by an adult for parents to support their child with. From Primary 4 onwards, pupils are encouraged to record these tasks themselves, where appropriate.

Parents should sign the homework where appropriate and make any comment of any relevant nature. The diary/reading record can also be used for any communication between home and school, allowing quick and effective communication between class teacher and home or vice versa. Primary's 1,2,3 are encouraged to bring their homework bags into school and Primary's 4,5,6,7 are responsible for keeping their homework in their bags.

7.0 RANGE AND TYPES OF HOMEWORK

Pupils will be expected to tackle a variety of homework tasks throughout the session. These tasks will be from all curricular areas of the school and teachers will endeavour to provide variety while still giving opportunities to consolidate routines for language and maths.

The tasks set by the teacher are expected to take the pupils a fairly short period of time:

- In early level, homework tasks should take no longer than 15 minutes per night to complete.
- In first level school, pupils would certainly not be expected to spend any more than 20 minutes on a nightly task.
- Second level pupils should not spend longer than 30 minutes per night on homework. However, extended tasks such as personal projects etc will require more time and input.

These set tasks could be from any curriculum area but are more likely to be part of an interdisciplinary learning (IDL) topic.

Pupils may be asked to bring in materials from home to support class work e.g. photographs of themselves when they were younger or pictures from magazines. In the upper stages, pupils may be asked to look for newspaper items or find out about local or national news. We ask that parents try to support their children as much as possible but we are aware that not all parents purchase newspapers or have access to the internet. Homework lunchtime clubs are available for pupils who do not have access to computers or need extra adult input to complete their homework tasks.

The nursery staff issue an end of topic evaluation sheet for parents and children to complete at home. The nursery staff often write home learning suggestions on the whiteboard outside the nursery for parents to try at home. All nursery children have a big diary that evidence can go in and parental

comments. Children often bring things in from home to display. Talk boxes and 'take home Ted' goes home as home learning.

8.0 PUPIL CHOICE HOMEWORK GRIDS

A pupil choice homework grid will be issued to children once year. It was piloted by 3 classes in February 2012 and proved to be a success from feedback from pupils, staff and parents. Pupils are expected to do at least 8 of the activities a month. Pupils should tick the box of the activities completed each week. Sheet should be returned each Friday during the month this homework is issued to monitor progress. The activities with a character inside them are activities that must be completed. Each activity should be self assessed using the traffic light in each box. Any products of the homework which pupils are particularly proud of will be displayed in a designated area in the school.

9.0 DYSLEXIA FRIENDLY HOMEWORK

Pupils with identified dyslexic or literacy difficulties may need added consideration when homework is set. Teachers should check that any spelling words have been recorded correctly by pupils and that homework tasks have been recorded in homework diaries. Teachers should also consider that:

- Students with dyslexia may need extra time or shorter tasks or time limit.
- Students with dyslexia may benefit from submitting written tasks in different formats eg bullet-pointed notes, mind maps, voice recordings, storyboards, oral presentation to class.
- ICT based tasks can be difficult for dyslexic students and one solution is to specify only one or two pages from which to find information.

Parents are encouraged to write a note in the homework diary if any task has caused problems at home.

10.0 PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Annbank Primary strives for effective home links with parents. In the school session of 2011/2012 a questionnaire was issued and a home learning parent workshop was delivered. The questionnaire was given to parents for feedback information about the pilot of the home learning grid as well as homework in general. The feedback was positive and we acted upon any issues which were raised.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers:

- To take an active role in supporting their children with set homework tasks.

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- To support their children to ensure that all homework is fully completed and returned to school on the appropriate day.
- Sign pupil's work where appropriate
- To raise any issues of concern by contacting the school through open door policy.