

Homework Policy (last reviewed in 2024)

Rationale:

The aim of this statement is to clarify for parents and teachers the policy and procedures regarding formal homework so that children may benefit from the work undertaken. In formulating this statement, the following points have been considered.

1. Whilst excessive homework may make too many demands on the child and create stress and antagonism which in turn affects the child's natural pleasure in learning, homework does forge a powerful link between home and school and between teachers and parents by extending the child's learning from classroom to home.
2. Homework is the point where classroom and living room overlap. When parents take an active interest in the child's homework this may encourage the child to work to the best of their potential.
3. The role of parents in their children's education must not be underestimated. There is immense value in parents reading to children and both conversations and discussions are extremely important.
4. Together our aim should be to develop their powers of observation and exploit their natural curiosity. Much of this would be a worthwhile substitute for formal homework.
5. Where applicable, parents are also actively involved in 'Paired Reading'/'Paired Mathematics' projects at home annually.
6. Termly year group information booklets give parents a guide in relation to topics to be covered etc. and introductory meetings at the start of the year outline practice/expectations.

Policy:

Sustaining varied, interesting homework on a night-to-night basis with a class of mixed-ability children is an almost impossible task so, homework on a regular basis may include spelling, reading, written work and tables with along with the consolidation of mathematical concepts and literacy skills being worked on in class. Homework therefore consolidates classwork. (Literacy includes: - Grammar/Punctuation, Comprehension and Writing) Homework should be completed nightly and brought in each morning*.

When appropriate, homework may also consist of research work, observation or creative work associated with topics/projects which children are studying. (*When research homework is set, additional time may be given.)

All homework set must marked/assessed at the earliest opportunity. Where online work is set, pupils are expected to complete on the night set and teachers acknowledge completion by return work online with a comment or by keeping a record of progress on commercial sites such as Education City or Studyladder.

The use of diaries is standardised throughout the school. Parents and teachers are encouraged to use the diary as a method of communication for relaying messages about pastoral and curriculum issues. Homework tasks are recorded by children into the homework diaries (three distinctive styles complement FS, KS1 and KS2). Standardised diaries are used from P3 and up. P3 pupils start to self-record in term 2 so that by third term in P3 many children should be writing the planned homework into the diary by themselves (on a weekly basis).

Parents are encouraged to sign the diaries and teachers monitor and sign them regularly. Supporting information other weekly information as well as the homework timetable may also be posted on Google Classroom or the Home Learning page of the school website where appropriate.

Children are advised to develop good study habits in all age groups i.e. do homework at a set time, in a suitable place without distractions (away from screens) and sitting at a table to write. (The homework diaries contain tips for parents/children). Excessive use of sheets is avoided – booklets may be used for differentiated groups.
Some formal homework is set for children in P1 and P2.

Parents are encouraged to talk with their children, read library books to them and provide opportunities for creative play.

Reading is to be an enjoyable experience as over-emphasis on reading homework in the initial stages may have a negative result.

Children in P3 and P4 should not be expected to spend more than 20 minutes on an evening’s homework.

This time will be gradually increased as pupils get older to a maximum of 45 minutes in P7.

The amount of homework set in each year should prepare children for the following year to avoid any sudden change or increase in what is expected.

No homework will be set at weekends or during school holidays however, P6 and P7, for part of the year, may be given weekend homework.

Parents are asked to limit the time children spend on homework (this can vary from child to child). When satisfied that he/she has spent enough time, allow the child to stop and initial the work. By doing this, children will have the opportunity to share in normal family life and pursue interests not directly connected with school.

Practice:

Recommended Time (maximum)	Literacy	Numeracy	Reading- nights	Spellings - nights	Topic Work	Comments As guided by teaching staff- Relates to majority of the class
P1	1 per week Term 1 Mixture 1-2 in term 2 and 3	1 per week Term 1 Mixture 1-2 in term 2 and 3	3 first term 3 second Term	N/A 'Sound of the week' – Starting mid-September Focus keywords weekly – mid September	Occasional – linked to topic work – term 1, 2 and 3 PE-(FMS) One practical activity per week. Term 3	<p>Sept/Oct: No written homework until after Halloween Practical Numeracy, Literacy and Fine-Motor Skills activity packs sent home weekly.</p> <p>Nov/Dec - 2 written homework tasks per week. Literacy – letter formation/phonics pre-reading tasks. or Numeracy - number/counting/sorting or pattern activity. Focus keywords</p> <p>Sound of the week – children are encouraged to bring in one item from home beginning with that sound to put into sound box for whole class discussion. Reading - picture books go home 2 nights - children retell the story using the pictures, plus library book. Online tasks e.g. Bug Club/Education City (not every week)</p> <p>Term 2 - 2 written homework tasks per week. Literacy /Numeracy (as above) Sound of the week – (as above) Focus keywords Reading – set 3 nights per week, plus library book Online tasks e.g. Bug club/Education City.</p>

						<p>Term 3 – written homework tasks per week Literacy /Numeracy (as above) Sound of the week – (as above) Focus keywords Reading – set 3 nights per week, plus library book Online tasks Bug Club/Education City tasks</p>
P2	1 in Term 1 Mixture in Term 2 and in Term 3	1 in Term 1 Mixture in Term 2 and in Term 3	3	N/A	N/A	<p>Term 1 September - October - no written homework until after Halloween - children conduct word/sound activities in their reading activity book.</p> <p>November/December - 2 written homework per week. 1 Literacy and 1 Numeracy plus activities in reading activity book.</p> <p>Term 2 - 3 written homework per week. One week - 2 Literacy and 1 Numeracy. Next week -2 Numeracy and 1 Literacy. (When doing Paired Maths this substitutes Numeracy homework – 4 weeks.) Online tasks e.g. Education City/Bug Club</p> <p>Term 3 - 3 written homework per week - 2 Literacy/2 Numeracy.</p>
P3 <i>(20 mins)</i> <i>Tasks for each week are set up on Google Classroom for parental/pupil access</i>	1 in Term 1 Mixture in Term 2 2 in Term 3	1 in Term 1 Mixture in Term 2 2 in Term 3	4 (plus weekend reader)	4	Occasional or linked to other homework e.g. Literacy	<p>Term 1 - No written homework up to Hallowe'en – November/December- 1 Numeracy and 1 Literacy per week. Literacy includes Punctuation, Grammar, Comprehension and Writing. Numeracy- activities relating to class learning</p> <p>Term 2 - 3 written homework per week. One week - 2 Literacy and 1 Numeracy. Next week -2 Numeracy and 1 Literacy. Literacy includes Punctuation, Grammar, Comprehension and Writing.</p> <p><u>Paired Reading – (3-week programme)</u></p> <p><u>Project work in Terms 2 & 3 (instead of 2 written homeworks)</u> Term 3 - 2 Literacy and 2 Numeracy. Literacy includes Punctuation, Grammar, Comprehension and Writing.</p>
P4 <i>(20 mins)</i> <i>Tasks for each week are set up on Google Classroom for parental/pupil access</i>	2	2	4 (plus weekend reader)	4	Occasional or linked to other homework e.g. Literacy	<p>Term1-3 2 x Numeracy - complements core maths activities being covered. Including NHM Home activities, pupil sheets and check-ups. (Supports number facts/multiplication and division bonds being covered.)</p> <p>2 x Literacy - Based on grammar, punctuation covered in class. Research related to topics usually in World Around Us. Simple comprehension and writing tasks.</p> <p><u>Term 3 only</u></p> <p>Literacy homework may be given over a week to allow for research. Mental Maths- once per week from April (term 3)</p> <p>One task per week (Literacy OR Numeracy) is an Online homework task e.g. Education City to one written homework Paired Reading – (4-week programme) – Spring Term</p>

<p>P5 (25 mins) Tasks for each week are set up on Google Classroom for parental/pupil access</p>	2	2	4 (independent readers supplemented)	4	Occasional or linked to other homework e.g. Literacy 'Menu' style project tasks set each half term	<p><u>Term 1-3</u></p> <p>2x Numeracy based on NHM units e.g. home activities /check-ups /Target Maths. Mental Maths units set daily (tables).</p> <p>2x Literacy to support the P5 curriculum topics covering Vocabulary / Spelling, Grammar and punctuation and Comprehension</p> <p>Up to 2 of these homework's per week will be online for remote completion e.g. Education City, Study ladder or Bug Club.</p> <p><u>Paired Maths – (4-week programme) Spring Term</u></p> <p>Cross- Curricular project/research task in term three for three+ weeks.</p>
<p>P6 (30/35 mins maximum) Tasks for each week are set up on Google Classroom for parental/pupil access</p>	2 One of which is online e.g. Education City, Studyladder	2 One of which is online e.g. Education City, Studyladder	4 (independent readers supplemented)	4	Occasional or linked to other homework e.g. Literacy	<p><u>Term1-3</u></p> <p>2x Numeracy based on NHM unit e.g. Master Maths 3 and 4 Revision Sheets, Mental arithmetic sheets</p> <p>2x Literacy to support P6 curriculum/ topics (vocabulary / Spelling Grammar, punctuation and responses to reading)</p> <p>Up to two of the tasks per week are online for remote completion each week e.g. Bug Club Studyladder.</p> <p>Term 3 Weekend work to support literacy and numeracy for pupils working towards SEAG transfer tests.</p>
<p>P7 (45 mins maximum) Tasks for each week are set up on Google Classroom for parental/pupil access</p>	2 One of which is online e.g. Education City, Studyladder	2 One of which is online e.g. Education City, Studyladder	4 (independent readers supplemented)	4	Occasional or linked to other homework e.g. Literacy Term 3 – project research style format	<p><u>Term 1-2</u></p> <p>2 x Numeracy to support and consolidate P7 curriculum/ topics (From NHM topics, using On Target Maths /Master Maths number facts and tables etc.)</p> <p>2x Literacy to support P7 curriculum topics (grammar and punctuation and Comprehension/responses to reading). Topic based research tasks may, stretch over several nights- e.g. Victorian Christmas project or Titanic research</p> <p>Up to two of the tasks per week are online for remote completion each week, Plus, on occasion submission by Google Classroom.</p> <p>Weekend work to support literacy and numeracy for pupils working towards SEAG transfer tests Term 1 only.</p> <p>In Term 3 a research task covering a wide range of curriculum areas is given with one week to complete- this promotes independent research skills and prepares for post-primary school.</p>

Revised – May 2024. The Department of Education Guidelines and the findings of the NI. Curriculum Council for Educational Development were both taken into consideration in setting out this policy.