Abernyte Primary School



Homework Policy

**Rationale**

Home Learning is learning which takes place outwith the classroom and for which the pupil herself/himself is expected to take responsibility. It is, however, as much a part of the teacher’s plan for the pupil’s learning as work done in class. Children benefit greatly from the joint support of parents/carers and teachers in the learning process.

We are very aware that children spend more time at home than at school and we believe that they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outwith school. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child’s growth and development.

*Parents, carers and family members are by far the most important influences on children's lives. After all, between the ages of 5 and 16 children spend only 15% of their time in school! Research shows that when parents are involved in their child's learning, children do better at school and throughout life.*

Making a Difference, A New Law to Support Parents (Scottish Government)

**Aims**

* To strengthen partnerships between home and school
* To encourage parents to be involved in their child’s learning
* To allow further practice and reinforcement of skills
* To help children learn and work independently in the future
* To encourage children to take more responsibility for their own learning
* To learn how to organise and manage their own time
* To encourage interest in current affairs and develop general knowledge
* To provide opportunities for parental support
* To develop good habits of self-discipline, personal responsibility and independent learning including time management
* To develop good study skills

**Frequency of Homework**

In response to parental surveys carried out in June 2023 we are going to trial homework grids. Each term children will be issued with a 7/8-week homework grid which will consist of a variety tasks. The grid will consist of 12 activities where the children can choose to complete any of the tasks. It is recommended that the children try one activity from the grid each week to extend their knowledge and understanding of the learning for that term. The activities have been chosen to be fun and engaging. Alongside the homework grid child will receive weekly reading. Should parents feel that they would like their child/ren to read more than this, pupils can borrow books from the school or local library to support this. Any book which the child enjoys and is managing with or without parental support adds value to their reading skills and development. Children may also wish to request their weekly spelling list to practice.

As Term 3 is a longer term children will be issued with success criteria to complete a personal project. The children will have 3 weeks to research and collate ready to share with their class.

**Time Spent on Homework**

Time taken to complete homework will vary from stage to stage to stage and will be different for each child. The class teacher will make every effort to ensure that the homework grid is flexible and can be completed within a reasonable timescale.

**Completion of Homework**

The homework grid is optional, but we would encourage home support with their weekly reading. There is an afternoon arranged at the end of each term for the children to present and share their homework tasks together as a class. There will be an expectation that children complete their homework in a neat and tidy manner in line with our presentation of work policy.

**Type of Homework commences**

Homework does not need to be written it can be discussed, tell, ask opinions, or find out information. This is an opportunity to talk about school in an informal way and share the learning together.

**Differentiation**

At all times it will be necessary to take account of the different needs, learning styles and abilities of the pupils to ensure that home learning is appropriate and relevant. As in class, differentiation can be achieved in a number of ways, including giving tasks according to class groupings, setting tasks which can be tackled in different ways, allowing differing expectation levels for completed work and asking for different support levels from parents.

**Pupils with additional support needs**

When a child has additional support needs it may be necessary to adapt a task so that they may be able to contribute in a positive and meaningful way. When setting home learning for pupils who have specific needs, we may need to refer to the IEP for that pupil.

**Concerns**

If you have concerns surrounding the homework set, for example if your child is taking too long with the work, if you feel they are struggling or that they do not understand what to do or if homework becomes an issue, please either write a note to the class teacher or phone the school to discuss your concerns. We will do what we can to help.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

**The School’s Role**

* To let you know what is expected of your child
* To let you know what the school expects from you
* To let you know who to contact if you have concerns or queries

**The Teacher’s Role**

* Promote the value of home learning and the good home learning habits
* To set homework that is interesting, relevant and at the right level for your child
* To clearly explain the purpose of the homework to the children
* Set realistic time frames; some larger pieces may take more than a week
* Make expectations clear to pupils and parents
* To be aware of other pressures and responsibilities children may have
* Give children feedback, oral or written, on the work
* To give recognition for effort and work well done

**The Headteacher’s Role**

* Ensure all staff, parents and pupils understand and promote the home learning policy
* Monitor and evaluate practice
* Review the aims and procedures of the policy
* Take account of the views of pupils, parents and staff

**Pupil’s Role**

* To take the homework home in your homework bag
* To make the time to do the homework
* To look for help if you are stuck or frustrated
* To bring your homework back to school for the sharing afternoon
* To hand your homework in on time
* Plan their tasks for the week to fit in with other activities
* Complete their work to the best of their ability
* Listen carefully when home learning is being explained
* Ask for help early if they are having difficulty
* Ensure a parent or carer signs their home learning

**Parent’s Role**

* To encourage and support you child
* To talk to your child about what they are doing for homework
* Check that they can provide any necessary resources and if not let school know early – not when home learning is due
* To get in touch with the school if you have concerns
* Provide a suitable environment to work in free of distractions
* To be patient
* Feed back to the teacher any areas of concern regarding any aspect of home learning
* To sign the homework jotter or diary to show that the work has been completed
* Be aware of safe internet use when your child is using the computer
* Show interest and praise good efforts

**What is helpful to know about homework?**

* If your child completes their homework regularly this can add up to an extra year’s schooling by the time the leave school
* Supporting children at home is vital success - between the ages of 5 and 16 children spend approximately 15% of their time in school
* Being positive and encouraging your child with their homework is the most important part of your role
* Even if you have little time or many children to organise you can still be involved by showing an interest and offering encouragement
* Every child learns in a different way – it may not be the way you learnt. Listen to what they say about how they like to learn.
* If your child is having problems with homework or if it is becoming a problem or an issue, contact the school – we can support you too

**What helps at home?**

Here are a few questions to discuss with your child to find out their best way of working.

* Where are they least likely to be disturbed when completing their homework?
* Do they prefer to have company when they work or to work alone?
* Where is the most comfortable place for them to complete homework?
* When is the best time to complete tasks?
* Do they work best when listening to music or do they need peace and quiet to concentrate?

Sometimes your child can become stuck and you can be unsure of how to help. In this case:

* Ask your child to explain what the problem is
* Reassure them –everyone gets stuck sometimes
* Talk through the problem to help things become clearer
* If this does not work write a brief note to school explaining what the problem is

**Further Information**

If you are interested in finding out more about homework, the following web sites will be useful:-

www.parentszonescotland.gov.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parent