



Homework Policy - Teachers, Parents/Carers, Pupils

Rationale

Parents, carers and other family members can and do make a real difference to children's education. When parents and school work together, children do better – at Milltimber School we aim to foster strong parental partnerships, open avenues of communication and support pupils to achieve their potential. High quality, engaging homework results in motivated, enthusiastic, successful learners.

Aims

1. To promote positive links between home and school
2. To provide a framework, in line with 'Curriculum for Excellence', for homework activities from Nursery, Primary 1 to Primary 7
3. To ensure a consistency of approach towards homework which is clearly conveyed to all staff, parents/carers and pupils
4. To clarify the purposes of homework at different stages

Purposes of Homework

At Milltimber School we believe that homework allows:

- Parents to become involved in their child's learning within a variety of contexts
- Parents to keep track of their children's progress within different learning areas
- Pupils time to practise and build on what they have learned at school
- Pupils to develop independent study habits and self-discipline by encouraging them to take responsibility for their own learning
- Pupils an opportunity to organise and manage their time
- Pupils to grow in confidence, deal with challenges, take risks, overcome difficulties and solve problems

Role of Teachers

All teaching staff will ensure that:

Homework is directly related to classroom learning/teaching (reinforcing, consolidating or reviewing aspects of the curriculum). At times, homework will arise spontaneously from an idea or interest that the teacher or pupils have e.g. based on a topical news item or environmental issue.

Liaison between staff at the same stage exists so as to provide some consistency across classes but, at the same time, staff will tailor homework to meet class, group and individual needs where appropriate.

Pupils are provided with a homework jotter/diary where class, group and/or individual set homework will be recorded. Teachers and parents/carers can use the jotter/diary for any comments or communication about homework.

The content, resource requirements, time-scales are clearly understood by all pupils. Homework tasks should reflect the design principles within 'Curriculum for Excellence', and provide opportunities for pupils to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. A variety of written and oral homework is provided, with many different forms of recording used.

The amount of homework issued will be dependent on the age and stage of the pupils. Additional homework of a supportive nature, following consultation with parents, may be provided.

All forms of homework is valued and rewarded through appropriate praise and constructive feedback incl. merit stickers, encouraging verbal and written comments and next steps comments where appropriate.

Where pupils are absent for an extended period of time e.g. illness, reinforcement activities and additional reading materials will be provided.

Role of Supporters

Parents/Carers/Family Members at Milltimber School can support learning by:

Listening, talking and encouraging - children remember things well when they talk about or explain it to someone else, so asking your child about their homework really helps them.

Engaging in research topics, designing technology tasks together - this helps both parents and children to see the importance and value of life long learning.

Encouraging them to talk about their next steps in learning, what they have had success in and what they may need more support with.

Discussing the weekly task within their learning log and encouraging children to include their wider achievements.

Creating a suitable learning environment for children to work in – remembering to **help them** and **not do it** for them.

Supervising the homework of the younger pupils - by P6 and P7 pupils are able to take full responsibility for the completion of homework tasks (with only a quick overview by parents!).

Ensuring acceptable standards of presentation, **signing** homework jotters and commenting where necessary.

Maintaining a positive and encouraging attitude during homework sessions, this results in happier children and parents.

Homework will not generally be provided for families taking unauthorised holidays - children can draw, keep a holiday diary, write postcards, read books etc.

Role of Pupils

Pupils at Milltimber School are encouraged to:

Carry out homework tasks to the best of their ability and take care with their presentation skills e.g. handwriting, spacing, date, use of a ruler.

Ensure they know and understand the purpose of the task - ask the teacher if not sure!

See homework as an important learning activity e.g. supporting, securing and often challenging their thinking.

Copy instructions/information carefully – this will reduce confusion at home.

Cover homework jotters and keep them in good condition (no drawing on jotter covers).

Complete homework within given time-scales and ask parents/carers to check and sign it.

Finally – Remember to take it home!

MILLTIMBER SCHOOL

SUGGESTED TYPES OF HOMEWORK – NURSERY, PRIMARY 1 AND PRIMARY 2

Nursery

To foster the love of books and develop communication skills the Nursery Team work in partnership with parents to promote:

- Listening and Talking – ‘Take Home Ted’
- Interdisciplinary Topics – gathering items for display, discussion, hands on discovery/interest table.

Primary 1 and 2

Literacy

- Oral practice of action songs, rhymes and poems
- Oral practice of sounds (Jolly Phonics)
- Action songs to accompany new sounds
- Handwriting – formation of letters
- Reading – character and word recognition
- Tricky words and common words
- Reading practice and text related activities
- Making C V C words from given letters
- Spelling (Jolly Spelling P2) – a variety of fun methods
- Simple talks/show and tell

Numeracy and Mathematics

- Oral practice of number songs
- Number formation 0 to 10
- Number bonds to 10, then 10 to 20
- Ordering numbers to 100, then to 1000
- Practice of simple sequences e.g. days of the week, months, seasons
- Pattern making, shape activities
- Addition, Subtraction activities – oral and written

Interdisciplinary Activities

- Topic related activities which could include locating/providing real objects for discussion/display e.g. photographs, books, artefacts. Research/fact finding observing or recording information
- Art and Craft activities

MILLTIMBER SCHOOL

SUGGESTED TYPES OF HOMEWORK - PRIMARY 3 AND PRIMARY 4

Literacy

- Reading Practice – Home/School Readers
- Book Reviews
- Preparation of short talks (to include props if appropriate)
- Spelling tasks
- Oral practice of songs, modern and traditional rhymes and poems
- A variety of written exercises e.g. spelling, handwriting, punctuation and grammar
- Composing a short paragraph on a given subject

Numeracy and Mathematics

- Revision of number bonds
- Oral and written practice of tables
- Number exercises – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Schematic revision
- Problem solving activities/enterprise activities
- Information collecting and collating

Interdisciplinary Activities

- Topic related activities which could include locating/providing real objects for discussion/display e.g. photographs, books, artefacts
- Finding factual information – from actual observation, question or survey.
- Use of ICT for research tasks, where available
- Artistic/technological activities e.g. model making, sketching, designing

MILLTIMBER SCHOOL

SUGGESTED TYPES OF HOMEWORK - PRIMARY 5 TO PRIMARY 7

Literacy

- Reading Practice where required
- Home/School Readers
- Activities linked to class readers
- Comprehension tasks
- Preparation of talks/debates (to include ICT/Props if appropriate)
- Oral practice of songs, speeches and poems etc.
- A variety of written exercises e.g. spelling, handwriting, punctuation and grammar
- Composing a short text or report from an agreed plan

Numeracy and Mathematics

- Oral and written practice of numeracy skills, tables etc
- Number exercises – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Practice of targeted mathematical areas e.g. angles, time, money
- Information collecting and collating
- Problem solving/mathematical challenges

Interdisciplinary Activities

- Topic related activities which could include locating/providing real objects for discussion/display e.g. photographs, books, artefacts
- Research/Finding Information – from actual observation, survey, questionnaire or from a readily accessible source such as television, radio, newspapers or internet
- Design challenges
- Drawing/Sketching

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS & CARERS OF PUPILS IN P1 AND 2

Types of homework

Literacy

- Oral practice of action songs, rhymes and poems
- Oral practice of sounds (Jolly Phonics)
- Action songs to accompany new sounds
- Handwriting – formation of letters
- Reading – character and word recognition
- Tricky words and common words
- Reading practice and text related activities
- Making C V C words from given letters
- Spelling (Jolly Spelling P2) – a variety of fun methods
- Simple talks/show and tell

Numeracy and Mathematics

- Oral practice of number songs
- Number formation 0 to 10
- Number bonds to 10, then 10 to 20
- Ordering numbers to 100, then to 1000
- Practice of simple sequences e.g. days of the week, months, seasons
- Pattern making, shape activities
- Addition, Subtraction activities – oral and written

Interdisciplinary Activities

- Topic related activities which could include locating/providing real objects for discussion/display e.g. photographs, books, artefacts. Research/fact finding/observing or recording information
- Art and Craft activities

Additional Advice

Remember that reading should be a pleasurable task – find a quiet, comfortable place away from any distractions. Make sure that your child is refreshed, relaxed and ready to engage in any collaborative activity. Re-reading favourite books helps gain confidence and enhances the flow of reading. *Practice makes Perfect.*

Praise your child's efforts and enjoy their learning experiences.

If your child is too tired and unwilling to take part – *Stop, don't stress and try again later!*

Parent/Carer's Signature:.....

Date:.....

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS & CARERS OF PUPILS IN P3 AND P4

Types of homework

Literacy

- Reading Practice – Home/School Readers
- Book Reviews
- Preparation of short talks (to include props if appropriate)
- Spelling tasks
- Oral practice of songs, modern and traditional rhymes and poems
- A variety of written exercises e.g. spelling, handwriting, punctuation and grammar
- Composing a short paragraph on a given subject

Numeracy and Mathematics

- Revision of number bonds
- Oral and written practice of tables
- Number exercises – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Schematic revision
- Problem solving activities/enterprise activities
- Information collecting and collating

Interdisciplinary Activities

- Topic related activities which could include locating/providing real objects for discussion/display e.g. photographs, books, artefacts
- Finding factual information – from actual observation, question or survey. Use of ICT for research tasks, where available
- Artistic/technological activities e.g. model making, sketching, designing

Additional advice

Children should always have the appropriate tools to complete homework tasks e.g. pencil with a sharp point, clean rubber and ruler.

Please support your child if he/she makes repeated errors e.g. spelling, grammatical points – discuss and correct with them.

If your child is having difficulty with any aspect of their homework please inform their teacher by writing a brief note in their homework jotter.

All homework should be checked and signed by an adult.

Parent/Carer's Signature:

Date:

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS & CARERS OF PUPILS IN P5 TO P7

Types of homework

Literacy

- Reading Practice where required
- Home/School Readers
- Activities linked to class readers
- Comprehension tasks
- Preparation of talks/debates (to include ICT/Props if appropriate)
- Oral practice of songs, speeches and poems etc.
- A variety of written exercises e.g. spelling, handwriting, punctuation and grammar
- Composing a short text or report from an agreed plan

Numeracy and Mathematics

- Oral and written practice of numeracy skills, tables etc
- Number exercises – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Practice of targeted mathematical areas e.g. angles, time, money
- Information collecting and collating
- Problem solving/mathematical challenges

Interdisciplinary Activities

- Topic related activities which could include locating/providing real objects for discussion/display e.g. photographs, books, artefacts
- Research/finding Information – from actual observation, survey, questionnaire or from a readily accessible source such as television, radio, newspapers or internet
- Design challenges
- Drawing/sketching

Additional Advice

Children should always have the appropriate tools to complete homework tasks e.g. pencil with a sharp point, clean rubber and ruler.

Please support your child if he/she makes repeated errors e.g. spelling, grammatical points – discuss and correct with them.

If your child is having difficulty with any aspect of their homework please inform their teacher by writing a brief note in their homework jotter.

All homework should be checked and signed by an adult.

Parent/Carer's Signature:

Date: