

Colquhoun Park Primary School

Home Learning Policy

Rationale

At Colquhoun Park Primary we believe that homework is a vital link in the working partnership between children, parents and staff. Worthwhile tasks that are completed at home enable children to appreciate the help and support of their families in " thinking together " and enables parents to help and be involved in their children's education. It also has an important role to play in reinforcing and extending the learning and teaching that has taken place in the classroom.

Purposes of Home Learning

- To foster a close link between parents/school and the wider community in order to inform and encourage participation
- To widen pupils' learning experiences and to raise the awareness of parents to the availability and variety of additional learning resources e.g. library, ICT, seeking the experiences of others
- To reinforce, consolidate and extend the learning experience within the classroom and to help teachers monitor the effectiveness of this
- To promote self confidence and responsibility in planning, organising and delivering through independent learning
- To complete unfinished work when appropriate.

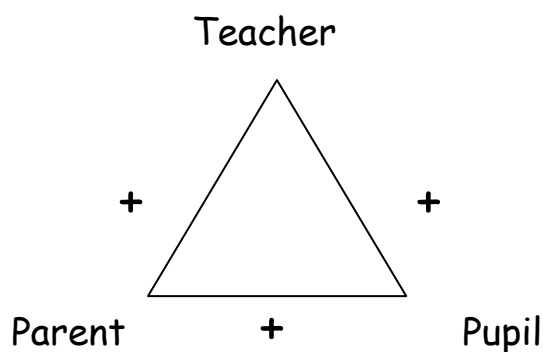
Making Home Learning Work

Successful home learning depends many factors such as:

- How interesting or engaging the task is
- What kind of day the child has had at school
- When homework is due
- How much there is
- The place where homework is done
- The time when it is done
- How much encouragement and support a child gets at home

This is a powerful mix of factors and not always easy to get right - so what needs to be done and who is responsible?

The Power of Three !



Replace any plus with a minus and learning becomes less effective.

To get everything working well together rests with 3 key people:

- the teacher
- the parent
- the child

The single most important ingredient of success at school rests on the power of three to work together well.

Responsibilities of teachers:

- To set appropriate home learning tasks - interesting and at the right level
- To ensure tasks are fully understood
- To check on homelearning done and give feedback
- To celebrate children's work through display and "showcasing"
- To recognise and reward effort and work well done

Responsibilities of pupils:

- To make the time to complete work carefully and well
- To discuss difficulties with the teacher as soon as they arise
- To ensure parents know the task (s) to be completed and ask for support if necessary
- To hand in completed work on or before the due date
- To ask for parental signature and comment

Responsibilities of parents:

- To know what the school expects of children and parents
- To encourage children to do their best at all times
- To talk to the child about what he/she is learning and to support but not do the work for them!
- To listen to any worries and to get in touch with the school if necessary
- To try to arrange supporting activities such as going to the library or visiting museums/galleries
- To check and sign Home Learning Log and/or Reading Record

How often will homework be set and how much time should children spend on it?

- Home Learning Logs are given to children each month.
- Home Learning tasks will be explained by the teacher
- Children should spend no more than 2 hours in any week

What kind of tasks are in the Home Learning Log?

There are a variety of tasks in each monthly log which have been designed to reinforce, extend and motivate children as well as encourage independence. Different learning styles are catered for - not all tasks are written, for example. Some of the tasks are:

- Reading for pleasure/information
- Writing skills
- Preparing talks/presentations
- Interviewing and reporting
- Poetry appreciation
- Mental maths activities
- Problem solving
- Collecting and displaying data
- Devising maths games
- Research and investigative skills
- Model making
- ICT skills
- Internet research
- Compiling questionnaires
- Composing jingles/songs
- Designing, drawing, painting
- Personal projects

Differentiation

- In Primary 1-3 Home Learning include differentiated tasks within curricular areas. Each week children should complete a task from the same curricular area
- Weekly reading, spelling and maths tasks will be set according to reading or maths group as appropriate
- Open ended tasks in the P4-7 Log allow for differing levels of teacher expectation
- The element of choice in Home Learning tasks takes account of differing levels of ability

Marking

Teachers will always check on a child's progress with Home Learning tasks. However assessment may happen in various ways:

- Traditional marking
- Peer assessment
- Self correction
- Formative assessment methods such as self evaluation, peer evaluation and parental evaluation
- Showcasing

Supported Study

The school will provide:

- A bank of resources in each class e.g. materials, advice sheets to support children in the completion of tasks
- Weekly discussions and feedback to children to help with longer tasks

What else will the school do to involve parents in their child's learning?

- The school will ensure that a copy of our Home Learning Policy is on the school web and available in school

- There will be an annual night for parents at the start of the session when home learning will be explained to parents and there will be an opportunity to have questions answered

Review and Monitoring of Home Learning

- The Class Teacher will check Home Learning Logs and Homework jotters
- The Management Team of the school will monitor consistency of approach across stages, including the use of Home Learning Logs and implementation of the policy
- There will be communication with parents to review the policy through Parents' Evenings and a mini questionnaire in January each year
- Annual discussion to review and amend policy and programme as appropriate

Anne Dalziel, Head Teacher, December 2010