

Newhill Primary School



Home Learning Policy

September 2018

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UNCRC Article 29: Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.

Rationale

Research from the 2018 National Improvement Framework shows that when parents and carers engage in their child's learning, and when children and young people live in a supportive home learning environment, it improves children's and young people's attainment and achievement. Family learning encourages family members to learn together, fostering positive attitudes to lifelong learning.

At Newhill Primary School we want to improve and increase the ways in which parents, carers and families can engage with teachers and partners to support their children and young people.

At Newhill Primary School we very much value the views and opinions of all stakeholders and following a whole school parental survey (October 2017) and discussions with staff and pupils, we have reviewed our approaches to home learning based on the responses received to ensure it is meaningful, manageable and provides the opportunity for pupils to practice the core learning which has already taken place in the class. Newhill parents view home learning as important and the school very much appreciates this support.

We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's development and any home learning should not prevent them from taking part in a large range of after school clubs and organisations.

Aims

- To continue to build on prior learning which has taken place in school providing children with the opportunity to practice key skills and develop confidence and security in their knowledge, understanding and capability.
- To provide an opportunity for parents to become more involved in their child's learning and to see progress and to gain a better understanding of what and how their child is learning in school.
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner while developing lifelong learning skills for the future to support them in the world of work.
- To foster good home/school working relations which benefit each child's development.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Management Team

- To support the implementation of this policy throughout the school.
- To communicate the changes in approach to parents.
- To monitor the effectiveness of the policy and provide feedback to all involved.

Role of the Teacher

- To set work on a regular basis that is appropriate and reflects the work being undertaken in school and record when work is not completed.
- To ensure that home learning is differentiated where appropriate.
- To ensure the child and parents have clear instructions as to how to complete the home learning.
- To notify parents if home learning has not been completed.

Role of the Parent/Carer

- To take an interest, talk to their child about their home learning and encourage them to take a pride in their work.
- To look over their Seesaw activities or posts when each piece of work has been completed and to use Seesaw as a means of communication between home and school about home learning.
- To encourage their child to be organised and take responsibility for completing their home learning on time.
- To notify school if their child is finding home learning difficult.

Role of the Child

- To complete their home learning to the best of their ability whilst taking a pride in their work.
- To share their Seesaw home learning activities with their parents.
- To be organised and take responsibility for completing their home learning on time.
- Be clear about what is expected of them and to discuss with the teacher as soon as possible if they have any difficulties in understanding/completing their home learning activities.

Policy into Practice

At Newhill we use Seesaw as a tool to provide home learning. In line with our Seesaw policy, the class teacher sets home learning weekly. In order to access this at home, the children need the Seesaw Class App. This app allows children to post directly to their journal and this is where they access their home learning through the activities tab.

During the course of their time at Primary school children will experience the following activities. The suggested time to be spent on home learning is also noted. Home learning will be handed out and handed in as specified by the child's teacher.

Home learning will not be given during the first and last weeks of term.

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Approx time to be spent on homework</u>	<u>Activities</u>
Nursery	N/A	Suggested home-link learning activities (optional)
P1 Stages	10 mins per day	Phonics, Sight/Common Words Reading Book, Number Stories.
P2 Stages	15/20 mins per day	Phonics, Sight/Common Words Reading Book, Number Stories. Spelling (Look, Cover, Write, Check)
P3 Stages	15/20 mins per day	Spelling (Look, Cover, Write Check) Reading, Number Stories, Times Tables
P4 Stages	45 mins per week	Reading, Spelling, Number Stories, Times Tables
P5 Stages	45 mins per week	Spelling, Reading, Times Tables, 4 Maths Operations
P6 Stages	1 hour per week	Spelling, Reading, Maths based on Classwork.
P7 Stages	1 hour per week	Spelling, Reading, Maths based on Classwork. Occasional Personal Project.

On occasion a child may also be asked to prepare a talk or learn a poem.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – When pupils do not attend school for reasons of family work arrangements or term-time holiday.

It is Perth and Kinross Council's policy that if a child has a short absence or is absent due to unauthorised holidays, work is not sent home to be completed.

Instead, we urge families to enjoy and to discuss new experiences with children. Worthwhile activities to practise literacy and numeracy skills include:

- Pupils keeping a diary, journal or blog to share with their class upon returning to school
- Reading for enjoyment followed by a short book review or illustration
- Researching an area of interest
- Numeracy practice using websites such as Sum Dog, Education City or Top Marks.

Appendix 2 - If home learning is not completed

- The child will get a reminder and one more day to hand it in.
- If it is not handed in the next day, whether they have completed it or not, then the child will be expected to spend their lunch time completing it and will be reminded about Homework Club.
- If home learning is not consistently handed in, then the teacher will inform SMT and it will be decided who should contact the parents for a more formal meeting.

Appendix 3 – Working with Parents

For children who would prefer to complete their home learning at school, then there is an opportunity to attend a lunchtime homework club on a Thursday.

It is to the great benefit of children that they are supported by parents/carers while they do their home learning. If the child is struggling with their home learning or they don't understand what to do, then in the first instance, please ask them to speak to the teacher as soon as possible.

Policy Written By:	Elizabeth Douglas, Headteacher	Date:	September 2018
Agreed with staff:	September 2018	Agreed with Parent Council	September 2018
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