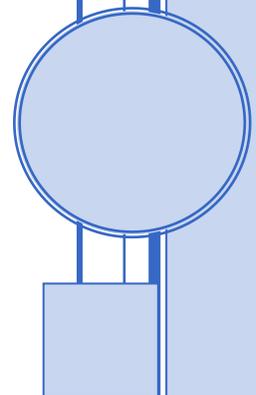




GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOME LEARNING POLICY

9/20/2019



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HOME LEARNING POLICY

(This policy should be read in conjunction with our Assessment, Parental Engagement and Learning and Teaching policies.)

Home learning is everything your child experiences with their family. For the purpose of this policy, 'Home Learning' is defined as any learning which takes place outwith school, which either happens as a result of a task/suggested activity set by school or is shared with school staff and peers.

RATIONALE

A 2019 report from the Education Endowment Foundation concluded that:

- *homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning*
- *parents can have a positive effect on homework completion and help children to develop effective learning habits*
- *short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework.*

AIMS

In Gullane Primary, through Home Learning, we aim to:

- promote home/school partnerships and provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- provide an opportunity for parents to gain an understanding of what and how children are learning at school.
- provide tasks which develop the children's skills and interests.
- provide experiences that are appropriate to the age, ability and interests of the child.
- encourage personal organisation and the self-discipline required for lifelong learning.

IMPLEMENTATION

We acknowledge that different family circumstances provide different amounts of time for families to learn together. This policy has been written in response to parent feedback that our home learning policy should be flexible and provide activities that support parents with ideas for home learning without being prescriptive. We are fully aware that our children work very hard throughout the day and many have out of school clubs which they attend. At no point do we wish for Home Learning to take over family life, cause stress or damage family relationships. We firmly believe that children should be children. They should be playing and socialising as well as having some 'time out' to recharge their batteries. The amount of Home Learning will alter for different year groups. If, at any time, you feel that the Home Learning set is too much, please speak to your child's teacher.

Please note – To promote digital literacy, Google Classroom, for which your child has a log-in, will be used as the main way of sharing home learning tasks.

Early Level:

- A home learning activity grid will be provided termly or monthly for your child to select from. Additional activities may be set in Google Classroom.
- Reading books or phonic/common word tasks will usually be sent home every day.
- Weekly spelling focus words will be shared with home.
- Children may be asked to complete a project linked to a topic in class. They will be given a deadline for completion and the sharing of this learning in school.
- Learning Logs will be sent home on a regular, but not always weekly, basis. These should be returned to school the following week to share any comments from home.

First Level:

- A home learning activity grid will be available on Google Classroom for your child to select from.
- Reading books/novels are given to support reading at home. The children will also have opportunities to bring a library book home.
- Reading books/novels will be sent home or chosen by the child to be read every day.
- Spelling patterns and word lists will be issued weekly or termly. Spelling tasks will be included in the home learning activity grid, if this is issued by your child's class teacher.
- Children may be asked to complete a project linked to a topic in class. They will be given a deadline for completion and the sharing of this learning in school.

Second Level:

- Homework will be issued and submitted through Google Classroom. Time will be made available within the school day for pupils who do not have access to this at home.
- A home learning activity grid will be available on Google Classroom for your child to select from.
- Reading books/novels will be sent home every day.
- Spelling patterns and word lists will be issued weekly or termly. Spelling tasks will be included in the home learning activity grid or detailed in Google Classroom.
- Children may be asked to complete a project linked to a topic in class. They will be given a deadline for completion and the sharing of this learning in school.

MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS

From P1 to P7 we would expect children to be involved in some form of reading activity every day.

We expect pupils to try to complete at least one task from the home learning activity grid each week (please note that in P6 and P7 encouraging positive engagement with home learning is particularly useful in developing the independent learning skills which are necessary for transition to high school).

HOW WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON HOME LEARNING?

Teachers will review completed home learning tasks each week. They will use a range of feedback strategies to acknowledge work completed and celebrate success. However, the purpose of home learning is to consolidate skills and develop independent learning skills and, as such, we do not expect staff to give detailed written feedback. Research has shown that feedback is most effective when it is given to the child directly and a discussion on their achievements and next steps can take place. Staff will use a range of feedback strategies which could include:

- individual verbal feedback to pupils

- short written feedback
- pupils sharing their work with a peer and giving peer feedback to each other
- self-assessment
- pupils sharing learning with the class and receiving verbal feedback such as 2 stars and a wish

Should a parent/carer have a specific concern related to their child's learning, or a task they have been allocated, they should make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss this further.

WHAT HAPPENS IF HOME LEARNING TASKS ARE NOT COMPLETED?

Whilst we understand that families have busy lives we also appreciate the value of home learning. Staff will expect pupils to try and complete one task a week. Staff will talk to pupils if home learning is frequently incomplete and work with parents to encourage the pupil to complete tasks in the future and see home learning as a valuable part of their school life.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The **Management Team** will:

- support and advise teachers in implementing this policy
- ensure that this policy is understood and implemented by teachers, pupils, parents and others

Teachers will:

- plan and set a variety of tasks for home learning that are appropriate to the needs of the children and also allow for personalisation and choice.
- ensure that all children understand the home learning that they are given and have access to appropriate resources to complete the tasks.
- celebrate home learning and provide feedback where appropriate (see feedback expectations).

Pupils should:

- take responsibility for their homework.
- give the same level of effort and presentation as would be expected of class work.

Parents/Carers should:

- support and encourage their child/ren to complete home learning within the given time and to the best of their ability.
- ensure that there is adequate time and space for their child/ren to complete home learning tasks.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with all staff; however, promoted staff will, through routine quality assurance procedures seek to ensure that it is put into practice. All staff will be involved in evaluating the effectiveness of this policy.