

Kincraig Primary School and Nursery



Homework Policy



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Homework Policy

Philosophy

At Kinraig Primary School we recognise the importance of regular homework for all children and the important contribution homework can make to children's progress. Work at home is a valuable and essential part of school work and can help raise standards of achievement. If correctly understood and managed by teachers, pupils and parents, homework should contribute to the positive learning experience and instil good work habits for the future.

Rationale - The role of Seesaw in homework setting and communication

Teachers will communicate homework tasks digitally, via Seesaw. Seesaw is a digital portfolio tool where teachers can upload tasks for pupils to complete and pupils can document and share their learning. Pupils work is compiled in one place making it easy for teachers and parents to view and review their work.

Seesaw will work on any device. It can be accessed via the web or iOS/Android apps. The simple login process will be achieved, with each child receiving a personal QR code to log onto a personal device at home.

Seesaw will empower our pupils to independently document what they are learning. Pupils can use photos, videos, drawings, text notes, links to show what they have learnt. When students add to their Seesaw journal, content is uploaded, and immediately accessible to teachers and parents from any device.

Pupils can use Seesaw's built-in audio recording and drawing tools to reflect on what they've learned or explain how they got their answer. Parents will be able to view updates to their child's Seesaw homework journal and view the feedback from the class teacher.

The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. There are many websites containing highly educational materials which can have a powerful effect on children's learning.

The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet. A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website.

Children who do not have access to internet at home will be given paper copies of the homework to be completed.

Homework tasks that are published online, will be posted by teachers by 16:15 on the day the homework is set. Parents unsure where to find homework should contact the pupils class teacher.

Purpose of Homework

At Kincaig Primary School we believe that the purpose of homework is to:

- Encourage children to develop the skills, confidence and motivation to study effectively on their own
- Consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed in school, especially in English and Mathematics
- To extend school learning through additional reading, project work etc.
- Develop and sustain the involvement of parents in their own children's learning
- Enable the children to use extra resources for learning at home - e.g. computer, internet, library, adult knowledge
- Assess the degree of understanding of class work
- Provide time to memorise/practise/apply spellings, tables, number bonds and vocabulary
- Encourage and develop independent study habits, organisational skills and self-discipline at home – ie. give pupils experience of working on their own, and develop a sense of responsibility for, and commitment to, their own learning
- Practise papers/example questions in the lead up to external examinations

The purpose and amount of homework changes as children get older. In Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 the key purpose is to develop a partnership with parents and to involve them actively in children's learning with a focus on English and Mathematics. As children get older, the main purpose of homework is to provide all children with the opportunity to develop independent learning skills.

Types of Homework

The main focus of homework activities is on English and Mathematics with other subjects being added as children move up through school. Older children will be asked to find out information and undertake written assignments. Tasks are planned and structured to support in learning progression. Children will be asked to complete homework tasks on:

- Reading
- Spellings
- Letter recognition
- Phonic / word work
- Book reviews
- Writing tasks
- Handwriting
- Times tables
- Number bonds
- Maths tasks linked to class lessons
- Project work for topics

- Research
- Revision for tests

Research suggests that short, reinforcement tasks are the most effective for children of a primary age.

Although finishing off work is not homework, those children who persistently leave work unfinished in lesson time will be expected to finish work in addition to completing homework. All homework will be completed on Seesaw.

Year group expectations

Foundation Stage:

Nursery

- Communication sent home daily via the Seesaw App
- Linking learning book or rhyme card sent home weekly alongside a library book.
- Creative activities may be sent home on occasions to extend learning within the classroom.

Reception

- Alternate task of English and Maths set weekly on Seesaw
- Home school communication via Seesaw
- Reading Books changed weekly

KS1:

Year 1

- Homework task set weekly on Seesaw, with an alternate task of English and Maths
- Reading Books changed twice a week
- Weekly spellings
- Times tables set with a termly with a focus for the term

Year 2

- Homework task set weekly on Seesaw, with an alternate task of English and Maths
- Reading books checked daily and changed when required
- Weekly spellings with key word focus sent home nightly
- Weekly times tables set ready for weekly test

KS2:

Year 3

- One piece of English and Maths homework per week set on Seesaw
- Reading books checked daily and changed when required
- Weekly spellings set on Seesaw
- Times tables challenge set on TTRockstars, ready for weekly test

Year 4

- One piece of English and Maths homework per week set on Seesaw
- Reading books checked daily and changed when required
- Weekly spellings set on Seesaw
- Times tables challenge set on TTRockstars, ready for weekly test

Year 5

- One piece of English and Maths homework per week set on Seesaw
- Reading books checked daily and changed when required
- Weekly spellings set on Seesaw
- Times tables challenge set on TTRockstars, ready for weekly test

Year 6

- One piece of English and Maths homework per week set on Seesaw
- Reading books checked daily and changed when required
- Weekly spellings set on Seesaw
- Times tables challenge set on TTRockstars, ready for weekly test

The importance of reading

Kincraig Primary School recognises the importance of reading as an essential homework activity for all children and this should take place daily. The value of reading regularly cannot be overstated, and there is a wealth of evidence associating daily reading – and/or being read to – in childhood with a number of academic and economic advantages in later life. Daily reading (or sharing a book) is therefore a ‘non-negotiable’.

Home/school reading records are valued as an important mechanism for sharing children’s progress with parents and of valuing the reading which take place at home. Parents are requested to fill in the reading record each time they read with their child.

Spelling/Times Tables

In order for spellings/vocabulary/tables, etc, to be learnt properly, it is necessary for learning and reinforcement to take place over a period of time – this will help to commit them to memory. For example, spellings ‘learnt’ the night before a test are unlikely to be

retained. Ideally, a few minutes should be spent on them each night, using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method.

Planning and setting homework

Planning and setting homework is the responsibility of the teachers in each year group. A homework timetable will be shared with parents. This will include regular patterns of homework e.g. reading daily, Wednesday - spellings.

It is important that the individual needs of SEN children are recognised when setting homework. Although it is important they do as much in common with the other children as possible, sometimes they benefit from separate tasks. Each class teacher needs to balance these two needs depending on the individual needs of the child, and will consult with the SEN support teacher when needed.

The role of parents

We expect pupils to be able to complete homework tasks independently (even where the tasks are challenging). If this is not the case, then the school needs to be informed.

Parents are encouraged to support their children in their homework through:

- Provide a suitable working environment and a regular routine
- Showing their children that they value homework and support school by making sure homework is completed to a high standard
- Giving praise for homework
- Provide assistance during a task, if necessary, by reading aloud and questioning, but not teaching/doing the work for your child
- Ensure that the time allocation is adhered to. If a task is not completed within the time, or if there is anything the teacher should be aware of, communicate this via the notifications on Seesaw
- Inform the school of any exceptional circumstances which may impact on homework

It is important that parents, children and teachers know what to expect each week.

Homework information is provided at the beginning of a school year and are outlined in a letter. We understand the demands on family life and recognise there is a need for home / school balance.

We hope that this policy will help to make the experience of homework a positive one for all concerned. If, however, for any reason homework is becoming problematic, parents should avoid confrontation with their child and seek advice from their child's teacher

Holiday Homework and Revision

In the lead-up to external examinations in year six, some preparation, practice papers and/or revision will be set on Seesaw for completion during the holidays.

Apart from this, although pupils are encouraged to continue to read (and/or be read to) daily and to practise number bonds/times tables, specific holiday homework will not be provided by teachers.

Visits to museums, galleries and places of interest are encouraged, though, to supplement the work that your child does in school. The following fun activities also constitute useful holiday 'homework':

- Talk about surroundings, including culture, language, similarities and differences
- Find out more about the place(s) visited
- Look at guides/maps for the place visited
- Share stories about the place visited
- Read a book set in the place visited
- Gain new experiences through sport, leisure or culture and discuss these experiences
- Taste new foods
- Learn basic words and phrases in a new language
- Keep a holiday diary with collected entrance tickets, photos and other memorabilia
- Solve real-life mathematical problems - e.g. work out how much a bill might cost in a shop or restaurant
- Follow recipes – including weighing out the ingredients
- Play board games
- Write letters or postcards.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by senior management every year to ensure that it is effective and progressive.

Policy updated September 2021:

The Homework Policy at Kinraig Primary School and Nursery will be reviewed and modified on a regular basis at least every 2 years. It is possible to add amendments to this document prior to a review and these will be incorporated into the next issue. To add comments please complete the information on this sheet adding the date and signing where indicated.

Name of person responsible for this policy –Mrs Karen Appleby & Miss Lucy Cross

Policy Adopted by the Governing Body–

Signed _____ Date _____

Date	Proposed Amendment	Signed
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