



Udston Primary School

Homework Position Statement

Rationale

Homework provides a vehicle for communication between school and home about pupil progress. Homework tasks provide opportunity for parents/carers to engage in pupil learning. Completion of homework enables pupils to develop skills as independent learners and take responsibility for their own learning.

The '*Journey to Excellence*' documents highlight the importance of working together with parents/carers to improve learning. Effective homework tasks can be crucial in developing parent/carers' support for their child's learning.

Our Aims

- To provide a varied, coherent and progressive homework programme which develops, extends and supports learning.
- To provide the opportunity for parents/carers to be involved and support their child in their learning.
- To strengthen partnerships with parents/carers through homework that reflects the learning in class.
- To use the homework programme as a communication tool for sharing pupil progress.
- To enable pupils to manage homework tasks and develop skills for Learning, Life and Work.

Working Together to Support Learning

Senior Management Team (SMT)

The SMT oversee the implementation of this statement. They monitor homework activities through jotter monitoring and speaking with pupils. The promotion of high expectations is shared regularly and emphasis placed on the importance of homework being completed.

Class Teachers

Class Teachers have the responsibility of setting appropriate and challenging homework each week for every pupil in their class. Homework activities should reflect and reinforce the learning and teaching in class. They should monitor the completion of homework and report to the SMT any pupil who is not completing homework on a regular basis. The collecting and marking of homework activities will be overseen by the Class Teacher. Where appropriate, some homework activities will be self or peer assessed as this enables the children to receive immediate feedback.

Pupils

Pupils take ownership of their Homework Diaries, using these to record homework activities and their progress on the 'Going for Gold' classroom behaviour chart. Pupils should ensure they have all relevant resources for homework and complete activities as set by their teacher.

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers should be fully involved in the homework programme. They should encourage pupils to foster positive habits and support them at all times. To support our partnership approach,

parents/carers are encouraged to contact the school should they require additional support/information with regards to the homework programme.

Homework Diaries

Each child will receive a Homework Diary. This is a communication tool between pupils, parents/carers and school. Primaries 1-3 will have homework pre-printed and attached to the diary. Primary 4 is a transition year where teachers will train pupils to complete diaries independently. Primaries 5-7 will complete diaries themselves.

Homework will be set on a weekly basis (**except Primary 1 pupils, who are issued tasks on a daily basis**). Pupils should be encouraged to manage their time according to other commitments they may have after school. Homework activities should be checked by parents/carers and Homework Diaries should be signed on a weekly basis. Should there be a reason why homework is not completed within the given timescale, parents/carers should communicate reasons to the class teacher by letter, or in the Homework Diary.

Promoting Positive Attitudes and Actions

Parents/carers should encourage pupils to develop positive attitudes and actions towards their learning. Ideally, pupils should have a quiet space to complete homework activities and should use a sharp pencil, rubber and ruler. No pens should be used in jotters or Homework Diaries and the standard of presentation should equal that of classroom activities. Parents/carers should support their child in homework activities regardless of primary stage, however it is expected that pupils should require less support as they progress through the school.

Homework Programme

All pupils will receive homework activities on a Monday. Homework should be handed into the Class Teacher on a Thursday (except Primary 1). Pupils will have a variety of tasks in the areas of Numeracy & Mathematics and Literacy & English. They may also have activities in other curricular areas, for example in Social Studies and during Spotlight Curricular Weeks.

Each teacher will provide information regarding the structure and content of homework activities. This information will be provided in paper form as well as being accessible via the school website on our Class Pages.

Pupils work at different paces and so the times given below are a general indicator of how long a pupil should spend on written or active homework activities. In addition to this, pupils and parents/carers are encouraged to spend time reading and discussing texts, as well as practising real-life skills which are age and stage appropriate (e.g. at early stages, recognising numbers and letters, progressing to practising times tables, counting money and telling the time).

- **Primaries 1-2: 15 minutes**
- **Primaries 3-4: 20 minutes**
- **Primaries 5-7: 30 minutes**

Additional Challenges

There are a number of ways you can extend and challenge your child's learning at home. Last year, one particular resource that was popular was the online EasiMaths programme which can be accessed by all children for free via Glow. There are also a list of 'Fun Learning Links' available on our school website in the 'Pupil Area'. Reading for enjoyment is an excellent way to engage children in their learning and our new Lending Library will enable children to borrow books to enjoy at home.

Emphasis is increasingly being placed on extending children's thinking through discussions about the books they are reading and their learning in general.

Overcoming Challenges

Homework activities should be associated with the current learning taking place in class. Time is spent in class explaining homework and pupils should understand the activity set and should be able to complete the task independently. Pupils may be set challenge activities for homework to further develop and extend their learning. If a pupil cannot complete a task, they should seek advice from the teacher in class. If a child continues to have difficulty in completing homework tasks, the parent should make an appointment to discuss this with the Class Teacher. Homework should not become a chore and should be looked upon as a positive experience where children can share their learning with their parents/carers.