

Currie Primary School



Home Learning Policy

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

Article 29 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

January 2017

RATIONALE/INTRODUCTION

This policy was first written as a result of consultation with parents in October 2014 and reflects current practice at Currie Primary in regards to homework. We updated the policy in January 2017 after consultation with parents, pupils and staff between October 2016 and January 2017.

AIMS

Within Currie Primary School, the main purpose of home learning is to:

- provide an opportunity for children to consolidate, reinforce and build upon their learning in the classroom
- develop children's ability to plan and organise their work, developing self-discipline, routines and study skills
- enable parents and carers to be informed about learning happening in class and to participate in their child's learning, providing a link between home and school

WEEKLY TASKS

Parents should expect spelling and reading homework each week.

Reading – reading core reading books or novels. Children will have a reading diary which states the reading to prepare at home and when this needs to be done by. Some children will have daily reading practice and some will have reading to prepare twice a week. By the upper school, reading homework will normally consist of reading a section of a novel and preparing a Literacy Circle Task to share with the group back in school. Literacy Circle Tasks include summarising the section read, word detective activities, illustrating the section read or thinking of questions about the section read to ask others. Reading will come home throughout the week as detailed in reading records.

Spelling – In P1 and P2 children will normally have sound rings and word cards to practice reading and spelling. From P3 onwards the children should bring home a list of words each week based on the spelling pattern they are learning in school. Common words will also be included. The children will have to practice writing out these words using cursive script as well as other activities such as putting the words into an interesting story or some active spelling ideas such as rainbow writing etc. (see School website parent Prompts for further details) The LOOK-SAY-COVER-WRITE-CHECK approach is the spelling strategy encouraged in school. Spelling will come home on a Friday and should be returned to school the following Wednesday.

HOME LEARNING GRIDS

In addition to the weekly task described above classes will be given a home learning grid with suggested activities and task to do over the term or half term block. The grid will give suggestions of the number of activities children could do each week, usually one a week from a different column but children may do more if they wish. The home learning grids will all run under a similar format but style of grid will vary from class to class / year to year.

The Home Learning Grids will contain a variety of suggested activities to support the work the class are involved in over the term, for example it may contain some project related tasks, writing tasks, maths / numeracy websites and activities, creative tasks, as well as tasks to develop skills for learning, life and work.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF TEACHERS, CHILDREN AND PARENTS?

Teachers should:

- Set varied homework to reflect the interests and needs of the class
- Explain tasks clearly
- Organise for the marking of homework e.g. teacher, peer-group, self-marking strategies, recognising and rewarding homework
- Monitor the progress of the children

Children should:

- Complete homework tasks as specified and return to their teacher on time
- Ensure the same level of effort and presentation as would be expected of class work

Parents should:

- Be active in supporting their child's learning e.g. pacing of homework over the week
- Ensure there are suitable working conditions at home e.g. not in front of the television
- Inform the teacher if there are any reasons why work cannot be completed on time
- Check the tasks and sign the reading diary and homework jotter

If homework causes your child to become stressed, please leave the task until another time and contact the teacher if it persists.

HOW MUCH HELP SHOULD PARENTS GIVE CHILDREN?

In general, parents should support their child in allowing them to complete their homework tasks so that work produced is the child's own. Many parents are often unsure about whether or not to correct homework, especially maths / number work and spelling. Parents should look over completed work and encourage children to check the quality of presentation and to look for any mistakes. Hopefully the child will find and correct any errors, though if parents feel that a child has seriously misunderstood a task, then it would be best to contact the teacher.

HANDING IN HOMEWORK

Homework is a voluntary task and cannot be compulsory, although there is an expectation that parents will support their children to participate. We recognise that some parents do not wish their children to have homework. If any parents wish to withdraw their children from homework activities, they should inform the Head Teacher in writing.

For children participating in home learning activities, we expect completed homework to be handed in on time. This gives children valuable experience of working to a deadline/sharing resources and facilitates staff with their planning and marking schedules. We understand that from time to time circumstances arise that prevent homework being completed. In these circumstances please let us know.

Pupils should be aware that if homework is not handed in on the due day, appropriate action will be taken:

1. The class teacher will speak to the child to ascertain the reason and ask for the homework to be handed in on the next day.
2. If homework is continually not completed and handed in, or handed in late, teachers will send out the standard “homework letter” to inform parents of the situation (appendix 1).
3. If the desired effect is not achieved, the teacher will alert the DHT / HT who will request from the child, the completion and return of the homework.
4. If still unsuccessful, the appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team will contact the Parent / carer.

UNFINISHED CLASS WORK

Children do occasionally fail to complete tasks in class for a variety of reasons. In such situations, it may be that unfinished work is required to be sent home for completion. The class teacher will also send home an “unfinished class work letter” (appendix 2). Such work would be in addition to normal homework.

Should work be unfinished on a regular basis and is becoming a persistent problem, the class teacher will consult with a member of the SLT. If appropriate, parents will be contacted.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We will review the new Home Learning Grids over the course of the next year by consulting with pupils, parents and staff and review and amend our policy as necessary.

Appendix 1

**Currie Primary School
59 Curriehill Road
Currie
EH14 5PU**

Date:

Dear

Homework

I wish to advise you that your child has not handed in homework set for last week. I discussed the issue with your child and asked for it to be returned today. Unfortunately, this has not happened.

Please could you discuss the issue with your child to ensure the return of regular homework. If your child is having difficulty with any aspect of the homework, please let me know through the homework jotter or by contacting me at school on 0131 449 3359.

Yours sincerely

**Class Teacher
Currie Primary School**

Appendix 2

**Currie Primary School
59 Curriehill Road
Currie
EH14 5PU**

Date:

Dear

Unfinished Class Work

I wish to advise you that your child has not finished their class work today, despite additional time being allocated for completion and the work being of appropriate challenge. The situation has been discussed with your child.

Please could you ensure that the work is completed and returned to school tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

**Class Teacher
Currie Primary School**