



GLENCORSE PRIMARY SCHOOL
'A Small School Building Big Dreams'

Homework Policy
March 2017

Homework is a strategy that provides students with opportunities to deepen their understanding of content and gain proficiency with their skills. It also gives students a chance to practise and review what they have learned.

(Robert Marzano)

Research

Research about homework has shown that the overall effects of homework are positive, however, there are some important aspects to consider:

- * Parent **support** for homework has a positive effect on achievement, whereas **direct instruction** from parents can have the opposite.
- * The rehearsal of basic skills had higher effects than homework requiring deep learning or problem solving.
- * Effects of homework are higher when involving rote learning, practice or rehearsal of subject matter.

Homework at Glencorse Primary School

Aims

At Glencorse Primary we believe that homework encourages learning as an enjoyable and meaningful experience beyond the classroom. It maintains positive home-school liaison and keeps parents informed of ongoing class work. Furthermore it fosters personal achievement and self-discipline as well as fulfilling individual needs.

Policy

Following a recent survey of parents and learners, results showed that everyone thought homework is an important part of Primary School life. Results from these surveys have been collated and analysed as a means of informing this policy.

Homework will be given at all stages. It should be a reinforcement of current class work relating to thematic work, or a specific curricular

area. Parents are not expected to 'teach' their child new subject matter but to help support, reinforce and build confidence in what they already know.

Homework can, and should take many different forms. In the early stages, homework activities should be regular and brief and will often relate to reading. A specific reading activity may take several 'sessions' to complete.

As the child progresses through school, homework tasks will gradually become more extended. To help prepare for Secondary School, tasks may be given which encourage pupils to plan and pace their own work.

Children will experience a variety of homework activities throughout a school session, e.g.

- a) carrying out research in connection with a project
- b) bringing into school items relating to class projects
- c) continuing a piece of work begun in class, whether to complete it or edit it
- d) sharing a variety of reading materials with parents, e.g. novels, library books, etc.
- e) learning songs and poems relating to specific themes or events
- f) carrying out an assignment relating to other areas of the curriculum.

At all stages it should be remembered that the school day can be tiring and demanding. Appropriate homework is valuable, but it should never become an onerous task or cause distress to the child or family.

It is also important that pupils have sufficient time and energy to pursue other interests outside school.

Homework submission dates specific to each stage will be set out by staff in the class newsletter at the start of the session. They will also be communicated via the child's reading diary. It is intended that Spelling and Maths homework will be set to be completed during the week. Reading homework may be over a weekend but there will always be the option of a weekday that this can be completed on.

If your child experiences any difficulties with the work set or they are struggling to have it completed for the date required, please contact the school. This can be communicated through the child's reading diary or in a letter. In most instances children will be given longer to complete the task or will be given some support in school to resolve difficulties then asked to complete it at home.

If homework tasks are completed for the required date, children will be rewarded through our points reward system. If homework tasks are not completed, without a valid reason for this, points will be deducted from the child. As per the results of our survey, children will be required to complete the work they have missed in Golden Time.

Homework Club

At Glencorse we are lucky to have the support of our parent members who run a weekly Homework Club. This takes place on a Tuesday at lunchtime. It offers support for children to complete their Spelling and Maths homework. On occasion Reading homework can be completed but this is difficult to manage if many children need to have their reading heard. We would urge you use this valuable resource and send your child to homework club if you know that completing it at home will be difficult. Children do not need to attend every week but Homework Club can offer valuable support if you know that a certain week will be particularly busy.

Reading

In relation to reading, children should be encouraged to share the experience of reading with parents. This may take the form of:

- a) shared reading of a chosen book
- b) reading for enjoyment and reinforcement of class reading book
- c) work in connection with class/group reading book
- d) preparing work in connection with an individual group or class novel
- e) borrowing a variety of books e.g. fiction/non-fiction/poetry from class and school library to extend personal reading.

Parents are asked to ensure that all homework books and reading books are returned to school on the appropriate day. The child's reading diary should be signed to show that homework has been completed.

Spelling

If spelling homework is given, the child should be encouraged to use the following method....

LOOK SAY COVER WRITE CHECK

Absences

If a child is absent from school due to illness or holiday, then homework will not be provided. Children may continue to read, practise counting, number bonds, times tables etc if appropriate.