Port Elphinstone School

Homework Policy

Introduction

As a school we are continually evaluating our approach to homework to ensure it promotes good quality learning and meets the needs of individual children.

We have therefore reviewed our Homework Policy to reflect current research and to take account of national guidance as described in Curriculum for Excellence.

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Rationale

We believe that homework helps children to

* develop independence and time management skills
* take increased responsibility for their own learning
* build on what they are learning in school

Traditionally homework has consisted of formal set written tasks. However, research suggests that this approach may not effectively meet the needs of all children and does not result in significant improvements in attainment.

At Port Elphinstone School, our aim is that homework should be:

* engaging

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* purposeful
* appropriate in terms of challenge
* relate directly to what is being taught in school

Homework will consist of:

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Reading

There will be a focus on reading across all stages of the school.  Encouraging confidence in reading is key to developing lifelong learning skills for all children. Reading is a source of personal enjoyment and supports learning across all areas of the curriculum. Reading homework will be noted in the Reading Diary and should be signed by the parent or carer.

Additional Activities

Throughout the year these may include:

* Learning a Scots poem for the Scot’s Poetry Competition in January
* Learning words for shows and assemblies
* Learning song words
* Preparing a talk to deliver to the class
* Carrying out a focused piece of research

In rare cases extra homework may be given to a child who, through lack of application, has not completed a task in school.

The role of parents and carers

We believe that the involvement of parents and carers in their children’s learning is invaluable.

The expectation is that homework is completed by the child with the support of an adult where necessary.  If possible, children should have a suitable place to do their homework and time should be made to allow homework to be completed on time. Remember to encourage your child to do their best.

Parents and carers are encouraged to use the Reading Diary to write comments to the class teacher as required.

If you have any queries about specific tasks or your child is unable to hand in homework on time, please let your child’s teacher know.



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