



Homework Policy

‘Doing homework regularly through their years at school has roughly the same benefit as an extra year’s schooling.’

(Parents as Partners in Excellence Celia Burn Scottish Learning Festival September 2007)

Aims of the Homework Policy

- to provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework
- to establish the pattern and content of homework
- to ensure a consistent and progressive approach to homework across the school
- to outline our homework expectations for all
- to identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.

Definition

New Machar School views homework as an opportunity to consolidate, extend and enrich pupil learning experiences from school. This can be achieved through supported or independent tasks undertaken outside of school hours.

Purpose

The purpose of homework is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child’s learning. It enables children to practise and consolidate skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. It also aims to enable children to take responsibility for their own learning and to become independent learners. Children will develop an awareness that learning is a life skill which happens both in and out of school. It helps to promote and develop organisational skills.

**“Homework that provides another chance to practice something already taught and for which a student has the beginnings of mastery can be effective”
(Hattie 2016)**

Expectations and organisation

Progression is planned from P1 – 7 through the provision of appropriate activities and the increasing expectations we have of our children as they move up through the school.

P1 and 2	Approximately 10 – 15 minutes per day
P3 – 5	Approximately 15 – 20 minutes per day
P6 and 7	Approximately 20 – 30 minutes per day

Pattern of Homework

Homework will be issued by the class teacher. Class teachers will clearly explain homework patterns and expectations in their Term 1 Learning Leaflet. These are available on the school website.

What homework will be given?

Pupils will receive homework in the following areas weekly:

- Reading – The development of reading skills continues at all stages of the school. In the initial stages of beginning to read (P1) children will get reading words home to practise.
- Spelling
 - P2-7– Spelling activities will be a balance of written and active approaches. Pupils spelling words will link to the phoneme being taught in class or from the word lists provided.
 - P1- sounds to practise, 2 sounds per week to begin with. When the children move onto consonant digraphs then vowel digraphs this reduces to 1 sound per week. Children will receive updated cards in their sounds boxes.
- Maths
 - P1- Maths Packs/SHM activities
 - P2 and P3- SHM activities/ Beat That Activities
 - P4-7- Multiplication facts practise and Education City Home Access.
- At times, pupils may receive an additional piece of homework covering other curricular areas e.g. Science, Health, Listening and Talking, Social Studies, Technologies, Modern Languages etc.

Expectations

Class Teachers	To set purposeful activities with clear learning intentions and success criteria. To ensure homework is interesting, relevant and at the correct level. Work with parents and pupils, being sensitive to the difficulties which may arise for certain children to work at home e.g. lack of materials, lack of quiet space etc. Ensure time deadlines are suitable e.g. give longer for research projects.
Pupils	To complete tasks to the best of their ability (with increasing independence as they move through the school.) Share their learning with parents and ask to sign (if necessary). Respect homework materials and follow jotter expectations as in class work. Take responsibility for organising any information or equipment they require.
Parents	Be aware of what homework is set and provide both encouragement and an appropriate environment for its completion. Encourage neat presentation. Talk to your child about their learning. Get in touch with the school if you have any questions or concerns. If requested by the class teacher, sign the homework to say that you have seen the work.

Wider Achievements

Active Schools provides information about programmes and activities taking place in the Inverurie network. New Machar School will support and promote these healthy activities by providing pupils and parents with information. We encourage ALL our pupils to have interests out with school and celebrate this in class and through assemblies.