

KILLYLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Small School...BIG Opportunities!



HOMework POLICY

APRIL 2022

KILLYLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

AIMS OF POLICY

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework at Killylea Primary School.
- To identify our shared views of good practice.
- To establish how homework will be organised and how we ensure progression across the school.
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.
- To make clear the ways in which we aim to ensure that the policy makes an important contribution to the quality of teaching and learning in the school.

DEFINITION

At Killylea Primary School we view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning.

PURPOSE

The purpose of homework at Killylea Primary School 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. Finally, it aims to enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.

RANGE OF HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

A variety of tasks are used to meet planned learning objectives. These can include:

- Speaking and listening activities
- Reading
- Spelling and word investigations
- Book reviews
- Reading comprehension
- Independent research
- Practical maths investigations
- Collecting items linked to a theme
- Skills practice across a range of areas
- Data collection
- Educational games

Homework, generally, will be set each day from Monday to Thursday on the class Seesaw app. The nature and amount of work to be completed at home will depend on the age and ability of the child. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the progress of their academic development. Parents should assist pupils to upload to Seesaw any work requested by teachers until they can do so independently.

WEEKLY HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

CLASS	HOMEWORK	TIMEFRAME
P1	Phonic activity – keywords/sounds Mental Maths activity Reading [dependent on readiness]	15-20 minutes
P2	Phonic booklet or practical phonic activity Mental Maths activity- linked to class work New Wave Mental Maths book Reading	20-30 minutes
P3	Phonic booklet or practical phonic activity Mental Maths activity- linked to class work New Wave Mental Maths book New Wave Literacy book Reading	30 minutes
P4/ P5	Spellings Times Tables New Wave Mental Maths book New Wave Literacy book Reading	30 – 45 minutes
P6/P7	Spellings Times Tables New Wave Mental Maths book New Wave Literacy book Reading	45 – 60 minutes

PUPILS WHO ARE ABSENT

If a child is absent due to illness it is the policy of the school not to send homework home. The assumption would be that the child was too ill to work.

If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what homework should be completed, how it should be marked and what sort of support is required to help the pupil. This will be done in consultation with the principal.

Teachers will not prepare classwork/homework for a child who is being withdrawn from school for a family holiday.

ROLE OF THE CLASS TEACHER

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance on how they might assist their child.

- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who complete homework tasks to the best of their ability.
- To mark homework when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL AND THE GOVERNORS

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- To inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the policy and what it entails.

ROLE OF THE PARENTS/CARERS

- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.
- To support the school by ensuring that his/her child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework i.e. at a table in a quiet space.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities i.e. listening to reading and asking questions about the reading, checking that spellings and mental maths facts have been learned and checking written homework to ensure neatness and completion.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To provide a written explanation to the class teacher, via Seesaw, if, for any reason, your child is unable to complete a homework.

At Killylea Primary School we expect parents to support and help their children with homework. Parents are requested to inform the teacher of any difficulties which the child may experience in completing the homework.

We have provided some guidance to support parents with their child's homework [Appendix 1]. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

ROLE OF THE CHILD

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To complete homework with the same level of effort as would be expected in class.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

While we support the role of parents/carers we still expect your child to complete their homework as independently as possible. As children move into Key Stage Two, they are expected to take increasing responsibility themselves for the completion of their homework but they should still be signed by a parent/carer.

COMPLETION OF HOMEWORK

- If you are dissatisfied with your child’s written work have it repeated but do not tear out or cross out the original effort.
- If your child is having particular difficulties do not supply the answers, rather make a note on the page and the teacher will deal with the problem.
- If for any reason your child is unable to complete a homework because of another commitment, missing book etc. please send a written explanation to the class teacher. In such circumstances the teacher will decide the appropriate course of action.

QUERIES ABOUT HOMEWORK

If your child has a problem completing the homework or you have any questions, please call in and see the class teacher or write a note in their homework book. We will do all that we can to resolve the problem. Your support in the process is vital for children’s success in developing self-study skills as they move on up through the school.

RACIAL EQUALITY & EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Killylea Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF HOMEWORK POLICY

In order to ensure that our Homework Policy directly contributes to the quality of teaching and learning the provision of homework will be regularly monitored. Samples of homework activities will be reviewed by the principal as part of the school’s self-evaluation process. In addition, the monitoring of homework samples will form part of the Literacy and Numeracy co-ordinators’ monitoring responsibilities.

Parents will also be given opportunities to share their views with teachers at parent consultations and other occasions as appropriate.

This policy was developed with input from pupils, staff, governors and parent consultation [Homework workshops Sept 2015].

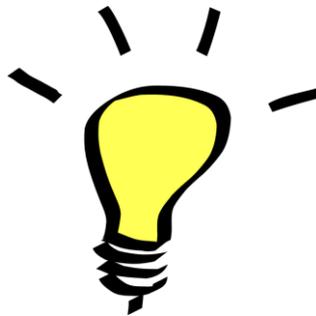
[Appendix 1]

Advice for Parents – Learning at Home

L.I.G.H.T.

Learning is Good at Home Together

Dos and Don'ts to make L.I.G.H.T. work



Do – give lots of encouragement, praise and ensure your child gives of their best.

Do – show interest and talk with your child about their learning

Do – share stories, poems and books together

Do – jointly decide where and when homework should be done

Do – relax and enjoy this quality time of sharing the learning

Don't – show anxiety or impatience

Don't – do the work yourself. Leave ownership with your child

Don't – hesitate to ask teacher for help

Don't – pressurise your child or overdo the session