



KILKEEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

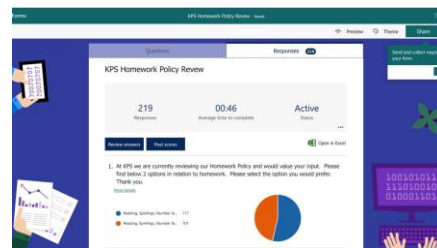
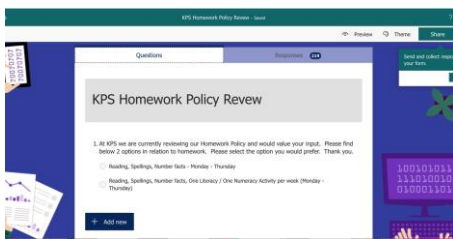
Reviewed October 2021

Ratified

Review Date



In order to ensure that parents / guardians had an opportunity to share their thoughts on homework, an electronic poll was issued at the end of September 2021.



As illustrated in the screenshots above, 218 responses were recorded, with 117 / 54% opting for Reading, Spellings and Number facts only, and 101 / 46% opting for Reading, Spellings, Number facts and a written activity. Based on this information, along with discussion amongst teachers and input from the School Council, the following outline of the provision of homework across the Key Stages is as follows. Please note, that this is a guide to homework provision, and will at times vary across the school year.

Aims Of Policy

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework at Kilkeel 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 Kilkeel 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 Kilkeel 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
- 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 for Monday to Thursday. 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.

FOUNDATION STAGE (Years 1 & 2)

- **Daily activities Monday – Thursday**
 - Reading related homework ie learning words, wordless reading books
 - Reading books (dependent on reading readiness)
 - Spellings (P2 only)
 - Literacy, Numeracy or Topic Related Activity – **Occasional, at discretion of the year group.**

It is anticipated that Foundation Stage homework should not take longer than 15-20 minutes to complete.

KEY STAGE 1 (Years 3 & 4)

- **Daily activities Monday – Thursday**
 - Phonic / spellings activity
 - Mental maths activity
 - Reading books (dependent on reading readiness)
 - Literacy, Numeracy or Topic Related Activity – **Occasional, at discretion of the year group.**

It is anticipated that Key Stage 1 homework should not take longer than 30 minutes to complete.

KEY STAGE 2 (Years 5, 6 & 7)

- **Daily activities Monday – Thursday**
 - Phonic / spellings activity
 - Mental maths
 - Reading
 - Additional written homework – **Occasional, at the discretion of the year group**

It is anticipated that Key Stage 2 homework should not take longer than 45 minutes to complete.

Class teachers will decide if it is acceptable to word process a piece of homework. Generally, homework is expected to be handwritten by the child and of a good standard of presentation.

LCS / ASC

- **Daily activities Monday – Thursday**
 - Reading related homework ie learning words, wordless reading books
 - Reading books (dependent on reading readiness)
 - Literacy, Numeracy or Topic Related Activity

It is anticipated that LSC / ASC homework should not take longer than 15-20 minutes to complete.

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 eg 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 Head of Key Stage and 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 easy to follow 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 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 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 the child to carry out their homework ie at a table in a quiet space.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities ie 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 sign the homework when it is completed. This does not mean that the teacher expects the work to be correct. Signing is seen as an indication that the parent is happy with their child's efforts.
- To provide a written explanation to the class teacher if, for any reason, your child is unable to complete a homework.

At Kilkeel Primary School we expect parents to support and help their children with homework. Parents are requested to inform the class 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 – see 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 2, 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 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 contact the class teacher within school hours. We will do all that we can to resolve the problem the next day. Your support in this process is vital for children's success in developing self-study skills as they move on up through school.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the 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.

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

APPENDIX 1

ADVICE FOR PARENTS – LEARNING AT HOME

- **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 the teacher for help
- **DON'T** pressurise your child or overdo the session