

Castlehill Primary School and ELR



Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework is a regular feature at Castlehill Primary and ELR. We believe that homework supports, extends and consolidates the learning covered in school, while developing executive functioning skills such as: independence, planning; time management; attention; perseverance and task initiation.

Aims

The aims of homework will change and adapt as children progress through school.

General aims include:

- To reinforce concepts learned at school moving from short term, to long term memory;
- To inform parents of what children are learning at school;
- To inform parents of children's progress
- To develop executive functioning skills, especially independence;
- To ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school;

Homework - Key Principles

- The amount and difficulty of homework will be adapted to meet the needs of individual pupils;
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- Teachers will incorporate homework into their weekly planning and ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills;
- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear instructions for tasks set.

Role of Teachers

- To explain the homework task and the learning purpose clearly;
- To set work at the appropriate level;
- To set deadlines if appropriate;
- To ensure that children have all materials needed to complete tasks set;
- Explain at Meet the Teacher event in August, through class newsletters and on Seesaw how and when homework will be issued. This will be dependent on teachers' working patterns.

Role of Children

- To make their parents aware of any homework given by the teacher;
- To ask for help if it is needed;
- To complete homework to the best of their ability and maintain the same standards of presentation expected in the classroom;
- To ensure that homework is handed in on time if a deadline is given by the teacher.

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers can support homework by:

- Providing a suitable place in which their child can do their homework, preferably with an adult nearby to discuss, encourage and support;
- Make it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning;
- Encourage their child, providing praise when they have completed work set;
- Ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time;
- Checking their child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.

Suggested Timings for Homework

Below is guidance on approximate timings for completing homework. If you were doing homework each evening (Mon- Thurs) the suggested timings would be as follows

Primary 1	Primary 2-4	Primary 5-7
5-10 minutes	15-20 minutes	20-30 minutes

The above timings are only a suggestion. Parents and children can work out their own homework timetable to suit their busy lives across the week.

General Focus for homework across stages.

P1 and P2	Up to 3 activities a week which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Letter Sounds• Letter Formation• Common words• Talking and Listening task• Numeracy/Maths activity• Spelling	Many pupils in P1 and P2 are developing their focus and attention skills. This can be challenging for some in a play based learning environment. It is important that parents support homework more intensely at the early stages to reinforce learning from class. As children become more confident and their focus and attention develops, they will be able to complete homework independently.
P3-6	Up to 4 activities a week which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spelling;• Reading;• Numeracy/Maths;• Other curricular area task.	Most pupils will be able to complete their homework tasks independently, however, it is important that parents check their child's homework upon completion.
P7	Up to 4 activities a week which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spelling,• Reading• Presentation activity• Numeracy or maths• Other curricular area task.	Pupils in P7 are encouraged to take sole responsibility for their homework. This helps prepare them for secondary school. The homework process includes: recording homework; completing homework accurately by following the instructions, and submitting homework by given deadlines. It is important that parents check their child's homework upon completion

ELR	<p>Homework activities in the ELR will very much depend on the specific needs of pupils.</p> <p>Class teachers will communicate details of activities and role of parents.</p>
All classes	<p>It is encouraged that parents listen to their child read as they complete their reading homework to support them with unfamiliar vocabulary, improve their fluency and ask questions to develop their comprehension skills.</p> <p>Homework will vary with some activities being games, some completed on worksheets, some completed online and others in jotters. This will be dependent on children's individual abilities and/or the nature of learning being planned.</p>

Please note that homework should not become a source of stress at home. If this is the case, please contact the school for support. Each year, class teachers work hard to offer a Homework After School Club for P4-7 pupils.