**CROSSLEE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**HOMEWORK POLICY**

Crosslee Community Primary School

Homework Policy

January 2014

Homework - A definition

Homework is defined as *anywork or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.*  At Crosslee we see work done at home as a valuable part of school work.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

* Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
* Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
* Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
* Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
* Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
* Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
* Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
* Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
* Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self discipline needed to study independently.
* Prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to High School.

Ways in which parents can support children's learning at home:

* Try and hear them read every day (as little as 5 minutes will do!)
* Give your child help and encouragement. Try and get involved and above all talk to them about their learning and listen to what they tell you.
* Use information sent home about what your child will be learning and complete related activities, read books on the subject areas and if possible take them to museums and places of interest.
* If you have Internet access, make sure that your child gets time to use it to research their learning and use educational websites.
* Some Homework activities will also be delivered through the school website.
* During school holidays continue to hear your child read and revise their times tables.

The Nature of Homework at Crosslee

Home Reading

The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that children will read for pleasure in their own time**.** All children in the Early Years and KS1 are provided with an appropriate book for home to be read with a parent or other adult. A record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to or read to their child.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 are expected to take responsibility for their own reading books as necessary. Parents will be asked to sign the Reading Homework Diary to indicate that it has been completed. Children are also encouraged to write their own comments.

Spellings

Spellings will be given to each child to learn using a variety of strategies such as the Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check method, spelling patterns and spellings in context. Some spellings will be differentiated by pupil ability, others may be key words from topics. Phonics Homework will be given to our younger children to develop reading skills.

Talking Homework (Early Years)

Opportunities are provided to talk to your child about a fixed idea. For example – Talk about the birds you see in your garden, what do they do?, What do they eat?. To extend this the children can draw or make models etc. on the same topic.

Playclub Bags

This is a phonic based resource with practical approaches to developing reading and writing. This is through songs, rhymes and letters and sounds.

Show Me... Homework

Show Me Homework is an inclusive form of homework which gives the children the opportunity to express their learning in their own chosen form. It allows the children to show their understanding of specific areas of learning whilst developing creative, presentation and information finding skills.

The children record their responses to the learning challenges set by the teacher in their own individual and unique way. Activities are open ended, allowing pupils to make their own decisions on how to collect, record or present their homework. Children can use their own learning preferences and styles to meet the learning objectives set. There is also the opportunity to extend learning for more able learners and where there is additional interest for pupils.

Year Group Homework Information

Nursery

* Reading Books
* Talking Homework - informed through newsletters fortnightly
* Letters and Sounds books when children are ready
* Playclub Bags
* Teddy Bear to go home, weekly

Reception

*As above, except:*

* Letters and Sounds books from September. Also includes High Frequency Words.
* Practise of reading using hand-made books.

Years 1 and 2

* Reading books / journals
* Spellings
* Homework piece X1 a week - Show Me ....

Year 3

* Reading books / journals
* Spellings
* Homework piece X2 a week - Show Me...

Years 4 and 5

(*The types of homework below will be given to meet the different expectations of age group and ability*)

* Reading books / journals
* Spellings
* Times Tables
* Homework piece X2 a week - Show Me... (1 X Literacy / Topic and 1 X Maths)

Year 6

* As above but with additional work during preparation for SAT's

The Role of the Class Teacher

* To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be through a homework title, question or hint or directly with parents at a meeting.
* To set regular homework in an easily followed routine.
* To ensure that homework is set consistently across the classes.
* To ensure that homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
* To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
* To mark work and give feedback to pupils.

The Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

* To check compliance and success of the Policy.
* To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
* To ensure that the Home-School Agreement relates to Homework.
* Inform new parents to the school of the Home-School Agreement.

The Role of Parents and Carers

* To sign a Home-School Agreement dealing with homework.
* To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
* To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
* To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
* To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
* To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

Setting and Marking of Homework

Wherever possible staff should mark homework that is returned by pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and giving them feedback on how well they have met their objectives. Marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils. Marking should follow the guidelines of the school marking policy.

If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume 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 should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given.

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. Crosslee Community Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that supports all pupils in their learning beyond the classroom, and aims at all times to set homework that promotes equality.