



Hillside School

Homework Policy

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to give pupils, staff and parents/ carers guidance on how homework is approached at Hillside School.

At Hillside School we believe that homework should be a worthwhile and meaningful experience for both pupils and parents. We recognise the need for homework to fit suitably with the challenges of modern life and how it should also reflect an understanding of our school community.

We place value on the learning that takes place outside of school across a range of situations including; playing outside, attending clubs, building friendships and developing life skills.

Link to School Aims:

- Promoting responsibility by caring for ourselves, each other and the environment
- Valuing mental and physical health to promote greater well-being and resilience
- Using the outdoors as a way of staying active and as an important context for learning

The Creation of this Policy

Staff have created this policy collaboratively and in consultation with all stakeholders. The most up to date educational research, including the work of John Hattie, has been used to support critical thinking, debate and evaluation.

Who is Responsible?

Staff- will ensure that the homework given is both relevant and meaningful to the learner.

Parents/ Carers- should support the learner in tasks, and should communicate any difficulties or concerns with the class teacher.

Pupils- should be encouraged to complete the homework to the best of their ability, with a sense of pride.

How will the policy be implemented?

According to Professor John Hattie:

"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)

With the above in mind, Reading homework and mental maths will be given regularly according to age and stage. Class teachers will also provide suggestions of other open-ended learning activities pupils and families may want to investigate (optional). The latter will be based on

what learning is taking place that term and staff will agree this together at each primary stage.

This model has been created in order to best meet the needs of our learners and school community. Our staff are always happy to make suggestions to families about additional activities they can do to support their child's learning.

Homework could typically include;

- *Structured reading from P1 onwards.
- *Mental maths skills practice
- Reading for enjoyment
- ICT based learning tasks across all areas.
- Talk homework.
- Researching current learning topics
- Life skills challenges
- Termly whole school challenges
- Family games

*Compulsory

Reading for Enjoyment

At Hillside School we promote reading for enjoyment amongst our whole school community. Reading for enjoyment (no matter what the text!) supports learning across all areas of the curriculum. Staff are always happy to suggest reading materials to parents (especially for reluctant readers).

All children will have an opportunity to visit our school library weekly and take their books home. Younger children may need parents to support them in reading these books.

We also strongly encourage parents to take their children to Portlethen Library and help us install a lifelong love of reading in our learners.

Active Schools

Active Schools provides information about programmes and activities taking place in the Portlethen network. Hillside 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.