

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.

We recognise, through consultation, that our parent body has a very diverse range of opinions on Homework. Many of our families would like a lot of homework and many would like to not have it at all. With this in mind, we have developed a homework programme that, we believe, compromises between the split views.

Link to School Aims:

Try our best and keep going through challenges.

Develop knowledge and skills to support learning life and work.

Create a motivating learning environment that promotes curiosity and creativity.

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)

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 at Hillside School - What this Looks Like - Primary 2 - 7

Homework goes out Monday-Friday across the whole school and staff will make a note for parents/pupils on TEAMS on 'how' to access this.

P2-7 will all have a homework jotter.

Weekly Homework Includes

Reading - Oral to be done weekly

Spelling - Words added to TEAMS weekly

Homework Recording Task Rotation - for jotter work

- Week 1 Inter Disciplinary Learning Task
- Week 2 - Maths/Numeracy Task
- Week 3 - Literacy Based Recording Task - could be spelling sentences, Talk for Writing or Project Based task

Homework at Hillside School - What this Looks Like - P1

Homework in Primary 1 builds up slowly and gradually across the year.

Term 1 onwards:

- Sound of the week w/ activity and option to bring something in from home for the 'sound table'.
- Picture/reading books typically issued prior to October holidays with accompanying 'stage' words

Term 3:

- February- in addition to above, maths homework introduced weekly

Term 4:

- In addition to above, common words sent home (in line with phonic sounds).

Marking

To be kept simple. Peer, self, teacher (could also involve a stamp - but comments from time-time)

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.