**St. Luke’s R.C. Primary School**



### **Policy Statement on**

### **Home Learning**

### **April 2013**

## St. Luke’s RC Primary School

## Policy Statement for Home Learning (Draft)

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*“Research consistently demonstrates that where parents are involved with their children’s education and learning both at home and in partnership with the school, their children do better and achieve more.  These benefits can be long-lasting and extend to better health and relationships, and improved employment prospects.”* Education Scotland Website

**Our Aims**

* To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school
* Reinforce and consolidate learning experiences from class for the individual pupil
* To encourage pupil ownership and responsibility for learning
* To develop good work habits and self discipline within our pupils
* To provide a variety of interesting and relevant experiences for our pupils to develop independent learning and research skills
* To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work together in partnership in relation to develop pupil learning
* To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences

**The Nature of Homework**

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career
2. The amount of homework should increase as a pupil moves through the school
3. Homework should not cause stress or anxiety on the pupil, family or teacher
4. Homework will not always come in the form of a written task
5. Homework will be set weekly from P1 to P7

Following consultation with pupils, parents and staff, the school has an agreed homework format to be used in all classes from P1 to P7 to provide clarity and consistency. This format is included as Appendix 1. Some comments received from parents as part of the consultation process is included as Appendix 2.

The agreed format for homework highlights:

* Literacy tasks
* Numeracy and Mathematics tasks
* Interdisciplinary Learning tasks

**Literacy Tasks**

Literacy tasks are set to be completed over the course of a school week. These tasks will include spelling and reading activities on a weekly basis. Activities and tasks will be linked to the learning experienced in class.

**Numeracy and Mathematics Tasks**

Numeracy and mathematics tasks will be completed over the course of a school week. These tasks will be based on learning experienced in class and will reinforce and develop pupil knowledge.

**Interdisciplinary Learning**

Interdisciplinary Learning tasks can take many forms. Tasks may last one week or may last a number of weeks. Tasks may reinforce and consolidate learning within class, but may also provide opportunities for pupils to research aspects of a topic and present this in many forms. Interdisciplinary tasks will be explained clearly to pupils at the outset of the project and explanations will be evident on the homework overview sheet. The class teacher may provide an additional sheet outlining the task in greater detail.

**Communication and Feedback**

The homework format provides opportunities for pupils and parents to feedback on homework tasks. Using the traffic light assessment tool used by all pupils in school, pupils are asked to traffic light how they found each task. There is also a comment box that pupils and parents can use to comment on completing tasks. This information can assist teachers in identifying next steps for pupils.

**Organisation of Homework Activities**

All pupils from P1 to P7 will be given a homework overview sheet on a Monday each week. This will outline the homework activities to be completed throughout the course of the week. This overview sheet should be returned signed, along with all completed homework on a Friday morning. Any additional activity sheets will be attached to this sheet on a Monday.

All pupils in P2 to P7 will be given a homework jotter. All weekly written homework tasks should be completed within this jotter. Parents should sign this jotter when homework tasks are completed.

Pupils in P1-P3 will be given a reading homework record. This will outline specific reading tasks to be completed throughout the course of the week. Parents should sign this record to highlight tasks have been completed.

Some interdisciplinary learning activities may take place over a number of weeks and may take different formats. Reminders will be posted on the overview sheet weekly and the deadline for tasks will be highlighted.

**Expectations and Roles**

**Role of the Class Teacher**

* To ensure that homework is set in the form of our homework overview and is sent out each Monday for a Friday return to class
* To set clear expectations for completion of homework tasks
* To provide clear instructions for homework tasks and additional information to parents when necessary
* To ensure homework tasks are relevant, purposeful and linked to learning in class
* To ensure homework is differentiated appropriately for pupils
* To reward and praise pupils who regularly complete homework tasks
* To mark homework and make comments as appropriate
* To assess more fully interdisciplinary homework tasks and provide feedback to pupils

**Role of the Pupil**

* To take responsibility for ensuring homework is taken home and completed
* To organise and manage their own time, particularly relating to extended homework tasks
* To ensure that reading texts and homework jotters/folders are brought to school on a daily basis
* To complete the self assessment on the homework overview sheets
* To hand homework in on time

**Role of the Head Teacher**

* To check compliance with policy
* To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented
* Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school policy and what it entails

**Role of the Parent/Carer**

* To support the school by ensuring that their child completes set homework tasks
* To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities
* To encourage and praise their child and their efforts in completing homework tasks
* To sign homework and make comments on the homework overview sheet, returning it to school
* To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining the importance of homework

At St. Luke’s Primary School we are keen to ensure that we provide a flexible approach to homework that allows us to meet the needs of all families while increasing the motivation, success and attainment of our pupils.

As a school we actively encourage parents to support and help their children with homework. It is our view that children are more likely to get more out of an activity if parents become involved, while still ensuring that it is their child’s work. It is increasingly important as a child progresses through the school that they become more independent in their learning.

Parents/carers who have queries or concerns regarding homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child’s class teacher.

St Luke’s Primary School Homework Overview

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class: ­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Over the week please complete **all** tasks outlined below. Homework due Friday **1st Feb**–Please note the due date of the themed task is also **1st February**. Please ensure you sign and date this sheet before the due date.

Please colour the circle to show how you felt about the task.

Green- easy Yellow – ok Red – very challenging

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Literacy** | **Numeracy and Maths** |
| **Themed** | |

If you would like to pass on a comment to the class teacher regarding this week’s homework please fill in the comment box below.

|  |
| --- |
| **Parental Comment** |

Thank you for your working partnership with us to support and develop your child’s learning.

**Please sign and date below**

Signed Date

Appendix 2

St. Luke’s RC Primary School

Parental Homework Feedback

September 2012

*Brilliant – about time we had this. I feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_learning has /homework experiences would have been much better had this been implemented years ago. I fear this is going to be a busy year for our family now but should hugely benefit\_\_\_\_\_\_in his final year. Well done.*

*I find it easier that there is a gap between when the homework is issued and when it is due back in. I sometimes feel the quantity of homework feels excessive, especially with two children at school and studying myself.*

*We found the homework policy very interesting.*

*The new homework looks very good as last term\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_did not get a lot of homework and feel my son has not progressed.*

*I have looked over sheets. I just hope\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_can cope with having dyslexia.*

*Good to have an outline of what homework each of my children will have. Easier to plan homework around their other out of school activities. Great idea.*

*I agree with children getting a certain amount of homework. I have always made sure\_\_\_\_\_\_did her homework and checked and signed it. I also try to help her if she needs help.*

*I find homework overview bit tricky to read. Not straightforward. Preferred jotters etc for homework in P1. More simple to follow. As a busy single full time working mum I need something simple and easy to instruct me so I can help my son. Can’t always rely on a 6 year old to tell me what he meant to do. Also preferred navy carry case for homework not plastic bag.*

*Personally I think this is a great idea. Great structure and guidance, may take a bit of getting used to though.*

*No concerns.*

*I feel that the homework policy and overview sheet are a good idea. As a parent it will be easier to keep track of what my child’s homework is and when it is to be completed.*

*PS I would appreciate if \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_came home with jotters for homework to be completed in instead of single sheets of paper as it is easy for a child to lose.*

*I like the structure of the homework policy. It will allow us to plan what activities we are doing with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on a daily basis. I am a bit unsure about them not having daily reading.*

*The homework policy seems to be a positive step and may bring some standardisation to homework throughout the school/classes.*

*The overview sheet at the start of the week is beneficial to what’s expected to be completed over that week instead of finding out on the day. Parents will also know that the overview sheet is expected at the start of each week.*

*Strengths*

* *Good to see systematic homework: easy, picture assisted for my son’s need*
* *Pleased to see more parent’s inclusion and engagement work in partnership to enhance child’s development*
* *Continuous reminder and leaflet to remind parents*
* *Friendly, approachable, welcoming and readily available staff*

*Recommendations*

* *Weekly brief report/written feedback on child’s development and progress to inform parent*

*I find the homework overview sheet a really good idea. I ask\_\_\_\_\_\_-about his sounds he learned over the last 3 days, and he told me he really enjoyed doing it. I personally find it a little hard to understand instructions as I am dyslexic and would find it easier if they were printed in a normal font.*

*I think this is a really good way so that I as a parent can help my child with reading and writing as well and to get involved.*

*Although \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_will tell me the letter he’s learnt on homework day, on a few occasions he’s mentioned other letters first which can be a bit confusing. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ seems to enjoy doing his homework and it’s easy to assist him.*