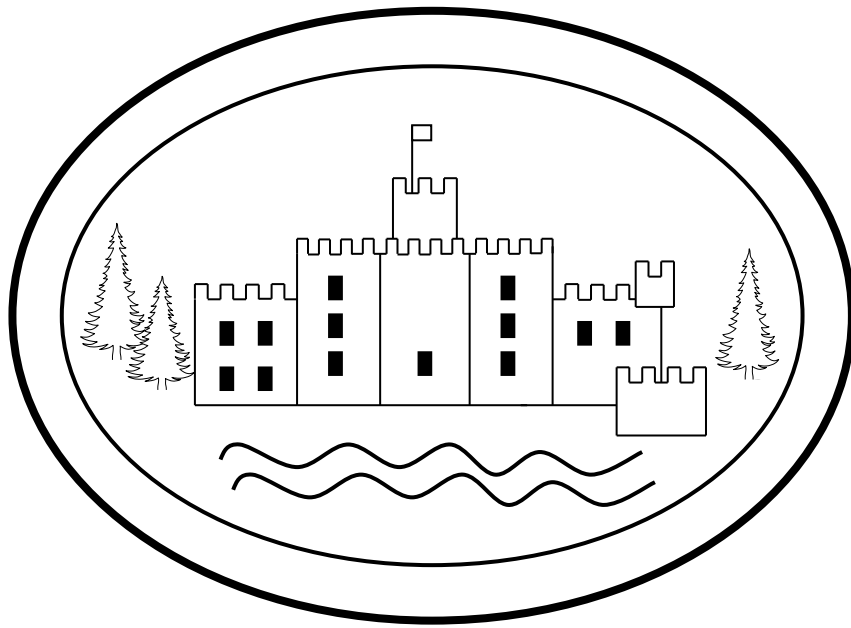


Augher Central Primary School



Homework Policy

Mission Statement: Provide all pupils with a high quality of education, which meets individual needs, within a stimulating and caring environment.

Vision: The vision of Augher Central Primary School is the development of the pupil as a whole person, as well as a learner.

Rationale: What is homework?

In Augher Central Primary School we define homework as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parental support. Homework presents an excellent opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting learning and can be invaluable for children to consolidate their learning. Staff and parents need to work in partnership to ensure the best quality education for each child.

Aims: Why do we give homework?

There are a number of important reasons why homework is given.

Homework;

- is an active and practical way for parents to be involved in their children's learning
- allows children an opportunity to reinforce, practise and/or consolidate work introduced in school
- helps children to work independently and develop responsibility for their work
- facilitates the means of developing research skills and the use of resources which exist beyond the school environment
- allows children to engage with their parents in a range of activities
- facilitates the development of an effective partnership between teachers, parents and children

Expectations

- Homework will be differentiated, where necessary, taking into account the range of pupil capabilities, in order to provide an appropriate challenge for individual children
- Homework for pupils with Special Educational Needs will reflect the children's different needs and abilities
- Homework will be clearly explained to children
- Homework will have a clear focus and will be linked to work covered in class
- Pupils will be expected to complete their homework*
- Pupils will check over their homework and where necessary will self-correct
- Parents are asked to provide a brief written explanation if homework has not been completed for any reason
- All homework will be marked during the week if handed in on time
- Children will get written or oral feedback on their work, to help them to improve

In P1 pupils will have practical homework to develop life skills and independence this will then progress to include written activities which reinforce classwork. Each child will have a folder of words and sounds appropriate to their ability and it is vital that parents/guardians spend time each week going over these. This provides the basis for beginning reading, to encourage independent writing and spelling and ensure that each child has the opportunity for a great start to their education.

Class work and/or homework will not be provided for children who are taken out of school to go on holiday during term time.

Parents should sign their child's homework diary on a weekly basis.

**A child who does not complete their homework in full, without explanation from the parent, will be asked to complete the homework during the morning break, lunchtime, or receive the homework again over the weekend - this will usually be noted in the homework dairy for parents' information.*

Types of homework

Reading

Reading is an essential part of homework and is a necessary way of broadening a child's understanding, knowledge and vocabulary. Homework will promote reading for enjoyment and the development of independent reading skills.

How can you help your child with reading?

Parents can encourage the development of children's reading by:

- reading to their children, reading with their children and listening to their children read.
- ensuring your child has their reading up-to-date as outlined in their Reading Schedule.
- listening to their reading and discussing it with them.
- taking them to the library and ensuring they have a variety of reading texts, for example, comics, magazines, newspapers, novels, non-fiction etc.

Reading in the Foundation Stage (P1 & 2) & Key Stage 1 (P3)

- All reading schemes are placed in a specific band.
- Children will read from different reading schemes within each band.
- Children will progress to the next band when they have made satisfactory progress.
- Children will not read exclusively from the same scheme.
- Children will be taught their guided reading in class and the book will then be sent home for reinforcement usually the following week.
- Online reading will also be introduced to support reading

Parents should read/discuss the book with their child and follow any activities given to the book.

Reading in Key Stage 1 (P4) & Key Stage 2 (P5-7)

By P4 and into Key Stage 2 the majority of children will have become independent readers and will not need the same one-to-one teacher time. However, close observation of their reading will still be required. Each child will have a reading schedule detailing what reading and reading work they have to complete. Reading sessions will concentrate on story discussion, questioning and opinions and not on 'hearing reading'. On occasion due to trips and special events if reading does not take place in school pupils should continue with their reading.

Spellings:

Spellings are also an essential part of homework. The peace and quiet of home is an opportunity for children to get the time to learn their spellings. Each child will have a variety of spelling activities to complete each week which are aimed at helping the children learn their spellings. Spellings may be High frequency words, phonic related, associated to rules of English i.e plurals, prefixes etc or may be essential words like the days of the week and months of the year.

1. Children in Primaries Two - Seven will learn spellings. Each week the children will learn the spellings during class time, as part of the Linguistic Phonics Programme, with reinforcement and related activities for homework.
2. Parents should use the LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK method to reinforce spellings with their children as above.
3. The class teacher will record how well each child has grasped the spellings in an informal way - games, orally, whiteboard throughout the week etc
4. There will also be a formal spelling test most Fridays from Primary 2 - 7 which will be sent home for parents to sign.

5. The school uses linguistic phonics to encourage children to develop spelling skills and strategies and homework activities are laid out in a daily format to reinforce work covered in school.

Maths Facts & Maths learning homework

Children from Primary 2 onwards will be required to learn number bonds and the times tables. It is essential that these are learned and reinforced at home on a nightly basis for consolidation.

There will be also a formal Mental Maths test from Primary 2 - 7 which will be sent home for parents to sign.

Online Programmes

Most pupils from P1 onwards will also be registered for the LEXIA or Maths Programmes. The Programme will provide;

- Challenging and stimulating questions
- Increased motivation and enjoyment
- Great variety of questions and response types
- Immediate assessment and feedback, with model answers
- Opportunity to develop ICT skills.

We have a lunchtime club run by a classroom assistant where pupils can complete ICT related homework. Pupils can make use of our supervised lunchtime club to complete this homework and want to reduce their homework at home or have problems accessing a computer and Wi-Fi.

Written homework

Written homework is based on work already covered in school. All written homework should be neatly presented and be of a similar standard to that acceptable in school.

Active Learning: In light of the Northern Ireland Curriculum some homework may not be written. Pupils may be required to research topics or bring in items for class discussions or investigations e.g. cuttings from magazines, photographs etc.

As the children progresses through the school they are encouraged to work as independently as possible. In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 we expect children will require much help and assistance but this should lessen as the child matures.

Completion of Homework

Following consultation with parents and the school council, teachers from P2 up will usually set only two written homework per week which can be completed whenever suits parents and pupils' best. Spellings, reading and maths facts should be done on a nightly basis to ensure pupils benefit from constant reinforcement. Each teacher will give out information on Monday regarding the homework for the week recorded in homework dairies.

It is understandable that due to after school commitments some parents may wish to double up on a written homework - we leave this to the discretion of each parent but would not recommend more than two homeworks on any one night and would also recommend that reading, phonics and/or tables/ mental maths are gone over each night.

**There will be no written homework at weekends (except for transfer work - which is voluntary) but we would recommend that pupils continue with their independent reading over the weekend.*

Time Spent on Homework:

It is suggested that the average time spent on homework should be:

- Primary 1 - 15-20 minutes
- Primary 2 - 20-25 minutes
- Primary 3 - 30-35 minutes
- Primary 4 - 35-45 minutes
- Primary 5 - 40-45 minutes
- Primary 6 - 45-55 minutes (This does not include work specifically for transfer test)
- Primary 7 - 50-60m (This does not include work specifically for transfer test)

Online programmes may be part of or in addition to this homework

- Some children will finish homework quickly while others may require more time. Please encourage those children who are finished quickly to check over their work and if necessary to self-correct.
- If your child is spending too long on homework, please note this on the homework and sign and reassure your child that he/she has completed enough. Each teacher will monitor this and reduce homework if required.
- If for some reason homework cannot be completed, please provide a brief written explanation in the child's homework book or send a note to the class teacher.

Uncompleted Homework:

A child who does not complete their homework in full, without explanation from their parent/guardian, will be given the homework again during a morning break, lunchtime or receive the homework again on the next night. Parents will be informed if this is a repeated pattern, by signing the homework diary each week parents will be kept notified of any queries or issues relating to homework.

Review of the Policy:

The School Council has been consulted through the formulation of this Policy and their views taken account of and recorded. The Policy has been widely consulted upon with staff, parents and Board of Governors and will be reviewed on a three-year cycle.

Signed Principal:

Date: _____

Signed Chair of Governors:

Date:

Review Year: