# TOWERVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Homework Policy

September 2024

NORTHERN IRELAND BEAUTIFUL ECO-SCHOOLS

#### Rational

In Towerview Primary School homework is considered an integral part of the curriculum. It enriches, revises and consolidates work completed in school. It also gives parents an insight into the standard of work being completed in class and what their child is capable of. It is therefore important that everyone involved encourages, supports and follows the school's policy on homework. It is assumed that by enrolling a child into our learning environment that parents are accepting of the homework policy and intend to support it at each stage of their child's education.

Homework need not necessarily be a written exercise; it is any task to be completed at home e.g. reading, learning spellings and tables, research, learning a poem or practising for assemblies or performances.

It is our policy to mark and provide positive and meaningful feedback for homework that is satisfactorily completed and handed in on the appropriate day. In situations where homework is considered to be below standard or incomplete, a pupil may be asked to correct or repeat the work.

#### The Aims of Homework

- To encourage pupils to develop the skills needed for independent learning.
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom.
- To give parents an insight into what is happening in school and to share in their child's learning.
- To develop an effective partnership between school and parents

#### **Guidelines:**

- There will be an explanation of what homework will be set, as part of the Curriculum Meeting in September of each year.
- Homework will normally be given each night from Monday to Thursday NB There may be exceptions at certain times of the year; these being agreed in advance by the school leadership.
- The duration and type of homework will depend on the age of the child and his/her ability within the classroom situation.
- When a child is off for a period of time due to illness, parents may obtain homework from the class teacher on request. Alternatively, the child should continue with spellings, reading and tables while at home as this will ensure continuity.
- Homework may be written, oral or investigative.
- Homework should reflect previous class work in order to practise skills and reinforce knowledge.
- If the tasks are taking too long to complete, parents may endorse unfinished work as having taken the allocated time.
- No homework will be set during holidays.
- There may be occasions on which no homework will be set by a teacher.
- Teachers will give written and verbal praise for pieces of well prepared homework and will also make constructive comments on homework books, when appropriate.
- Teachers will inform parents if children are regularly failing to produce homework or if the standard of homework is unacceptable.

#### **Holiday Preparations & Exceptions:**

Normal homework provision will occur each and every week of school term. Near to the end of term, in the final week/s, and on occasions when our children are expected to come into school for a performance etc there will be no written homework set for that night.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

In Towerview Primary School we believe that learning is a shared responsibility between pupils, parents and teachers.

## **Teachers' Responsibilities:**

- 1. To provide suitably differentiated tasks
- 2. To ensure that pupils and parents have a clear understanding of the task set.
- 3. To mark work and provide positive and constructive feedback.
- 4. To keep the Principal informed about concerns.

#### **Pupils' Responsibilities:**

- 1. Where age appropriate (P4-P7): To record accurately, in their Homework Diary, the correct homework.
- 2. To take home the appropriate books, sheets and materials.
- 3. To hand work in on time.
- 4. To complete work as instructed and present it neatly.
- 5. To pack their bag, at home the night before, and come to school prepared for all the next day's activities eg. sports, music, clubs etc.
- 6. To ensure that work is handed in on time.

#### Parents' Responsibilities:

- 1. To provide a suitable quiet working atmosphere.
- 2. To supervise homework tasks.
- 3. To check homework notes to find out what tasks have been set.
- 4. To listen to reading and talk about what has been read.
- 5. To listen and discuss strategies in mental maths homework.
- 6. To listen to and discuss other oral homework (e.g. spellings, talks and poems).
- 7. To encourage children to persevere with tasks and continually give of their best.
- 8. Check written homework and sign, ensuring that the assignment has been completed and the parent is happy with the standard and presentation.

### **Spellings**

When helping your child to learn their spellings we suggest that you use the Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check technique.

- 1. Look at the words to be learned with your child. Check that they understand what the words mean.
- 2. Say each word sounding out letter names for each word in turn.
- 3. Cover the word.
- 4. Write from memory, saying the letters aloud.
- 5. Check the spelling, correct if necessary.
- 6. Reward correct spellings with words of support. If incorrect, encourage your child to try again.

# Reading

The importance of reading cannot be over-emphasised. Parents are asked to encourage children to read as widely and as often as possible. Library reading is just as important as following the school 'Reading Books'.

As a school, we have adopted the **Accelerated Reader Programme**. This allows pupils from P3-P7 to read ability suitable books that fall within their interests. Each child will be set with a specific target to reach and will be rewarded for achieving specific milestones.

Below is an approximate recommended time that should be given to homework tasks and a list of typical activities that a child will complete for homework. Some homework activities may be completed over more than one evening. Teachers in each Year Group annually review and amend homework activities.

Class	Time each night	Activities to include
P1	20 mins	<ul> <li>Reading Book and Easy Read</li> <li>High Frequency word sheets and word cards.</li> <li>Magnetic boards and letters phonic work</li> <li>Numicon</li> <li>Written in 3<sup>rd</sup> term x2 sheets per week</li> <li>Activity Back Packs</li> </ul>
P2	30 mins approx.	<ul> <li>10-15 minutes Reading guided or easy read</li> <li>Phonics</li> <li>Mental maths facts / skills</li> <li>2 x Written Homework per week (Mon/Wed)</li> </ul>
P3	20 – 40 mins	<ul> <li>15 minute Reading 2 nights guided, 2 nights independent easy read</li> <li>Spellings each night</li> <li>Mental maths facts each night</li> <li>2 x Written Homework per week (Mon/Wed)</li> </ul>
P4	45 mins approx.	<ul> <li>15 minute Reading – Accelerated reading book.</li> <li>Spellings each night</li> <li>Mental maths facts each night</li> <li>2 x Written Homework per week (Mon/Wed)</li> <li>Term 3 – Project work added</li> </ul>
P5	50 mins approx.	<ul> <li>15 minutes Reading – Accelerated reading book</li> <li>Spellings each night</li> <li>Mental maths facts / literacy facts each night</li> <li>4 x Written Homework 2 x Numeracy 2 x Literacy.</li> </ul>
P6	1 hour approx	<ul> <li>15 minutes Reading – Accelerated reading book</li> <li>Spellings each night</li> <li>Mental maths facts / literacy facts each night</li> <li>4 x Written Homework 2 x Numeracy 2 x Literacy.</li> </ul>
P7	1 hour approx.	<ul> <li>15 minutes Reading – Accelerated reading book</li> <li>Spellings each night</li> <li>Mental maths facts / literacy facts each night</li> <li>4 x Written Homework 2 x Numeracy 2 x Literacy.</li> <li>During SEAG a homework practice test will be completed weekly.</li> </ul>
LSC	20 mins	<ul> <li>Spellings each night</li> <li>Mental maths facts / skills each week</li> <li>2 x Written Homework per week.</li> </ul>