

Homework Policy



Reviewed/Updated	Date
Updated	March 2026
Review	March 2029

<u>Signed:</u>	<u>Signed:</u>
Chair of Board of Governors	Principal

Definition

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. Homework encompasses a variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with the development of reading.

School Vision

At Crawfordsburn Primary School, we aim to develop our pupils to be caring, creative and confident individuals. Our approach to homework has a role to play in achieving this vision. We aim to provide purposeful, manageable tasks that help children feel supported, confident and successful in their learning. Homework activities are designed to extend classroom learning, encourage creativity, and promote independence while strengthening positive routines at home.

We believe our approach to homework develops our pupils' wellbeing and confidence and aim to set tasks that:

- Are purposeful and appropriately challenging so that pupils feel safe, supported, and successful;
- Have clear expectations and manageable amounts of work;
- Help children develop healthy routines and a sense of personal responsibility;
- Encourage family involvement, strengthening positive relationships and reinforcing the idea that learning is something we care about together.

Rationale

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. We understand children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside of school. While homework is important, it should not prevent pupils from taking part in out-of-school clubs, activities and other organisations. In recognition of this, Crawfordsburn Primary School has scaled back on the number of written assignments in particular, in order to focus on some of the key elements of learning; i.e. – spellings, tables/number facts and reading.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of this homework policy are:

- To consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- To enable pupils to make progress in their academic and social development by using homework as a tool to continue to raise standards of achievement;
- To ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do;
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- To help pupils develop the skill of being an independent learner;
- To promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning by providing opportunities for pupils and their parent/carer to share and enjoy learning experiences;
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.

Nature and Type of Homework

Homework is a balance of different types of activity. As well as formal work it will include collecting, observing, recording and various exploratory activities. The duration of homework will vary according to the nature of the task set and the ability and attention span of each child. The level of difficulty will normally relate directly to the child's ability, while other activities will be sufficiently open-ended to allow each child to work to his/her own potential. Tasks set should be appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. At times there may be issues arising from homework, which the teacher will follow up during class time.

Feedback from staff, pupils and parents continues to identify homework as an important part of the learning process and as such, it is planned and prepared for alongside all other learning opportunities.

At Crawfordsburn Primary School we also understand that children need to have opportunities to play, relax and rest after a busy day at school. Feedback from parents has identified that supporting children with their homework can often take a lot of time and cause stress and anxiety. This is why our new Homework Overview prioritises key elements of learning, in particular reading, spelling and the learning of tables/number facts. As pupils progress through school there is an expectation for homework to take longer and for pupils to show increasing independence as we help them prepare for post-primary education.

Homework Overview

At the commencement of each school year parents will be provided with information during the Parent Information Meetings on the Homework Overview for each year group. The overview for the whole school can be found at the end of this policy and is also available on the school website. It is organised in such a way as to allow parents and pupils to choose nights during the week to spend more time over the written elements.

Pupils who have reading, spelling and tables/number facts should complete and return these daily as they are the key learning elements of homework. Written homework will be given out on a Monday, and this does not need to be submitted until Thursday. Pupils will also get a day's grace meaning that homework handed in to a sufficient standard on a Friday will also be recorded as complete.

Rewards and Sanctions

Whilst it is acknowledged that homework plays a vital role in every child's learning, we recognise that there will be times where homework cannot be completed due to family circumstances such as illness or family bereavement. In line with our caring ethos, we will always make allowances on such occasions. It is therefore important that parents/ carers inform us if this is the case. Please note that attending a birthday party, concert, etc. is not deemed to be a valid reason for no submission.

Pupils can receive various rewards for successful homework completion such as verbal praise, stickers, certificates etc.

In most instances, we understand that it is unfair to lay blame with the child for incomplete homework. However, it is also important that pupils get the opportunity to complete this element of learning. Pupils will therefore be asked to complete any unfinished homework at a convenient time for their class teacher and will receive any necessary support as required.

The Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows them to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, removing possible distractions, enabling visits to the library, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

We ask parents and carers to check homework daily and to sign it as requested. If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Key Stage Coordinator. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the principal.

Parent Interview Meetings twice annually will give both parents and teachers the opportunity to discuss any areas of concern regarding homeworks.

This policy was created following a consultation process that involved:

- Staff Consultation
- Survey feedback from staff, parents and pupils
- A pupil focus group

Homework Overview



Titles / Year Groups	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Time Spent per night (including reading)	Up to 20mins	Up to 20mins	Up to 25-30mins	Up to 25-30mins	Up to 30-40mins	Up to 40-45mins	Up to 40-45mins
Spellings Mon-Wed- Spellings written twice per night Thurs- Revision of spellings for the week	Sounds/Key Words	Spellings introduced in a phased approach (In term 2)	Daily (learning and written)	Daily (learning and written)	Daily (learning and written)	Daily (learning and written)	Daily (learning and written)
Guided Reading/Accelerated Reader	As reading emerges, Reading Book (initially picture books)	Reading Book	Reading book/ AR book (15mins)	Reading book or AR book (15mins)	Reading 20 mins (independent AR novel)	Reading 20 mins (independent AR novel)	Reading 20 mins (independent AR novel)
Written	One Literacy and one Numeracy written homework to be completed weekly (submitted on Thursdays)		Literacy or Numeracy written homework to be completed weekly (submitted on Thursdays)		One Literacy and one Numeracy written homework to be completed weekly (submitted on Thursdays)		
Learning Mon-Wed- Number facts/tables written once per night Thurs- Revision of number facts/tables for the week			Number facts (Facts for the week given out on a Monday)	Tables/Number facts (Facts/Tables for the week given out on a Monday)	Tables/Number facts (Facts/Tables for the week given out on a Monday)	Tables/Number facts (Facts/Tables for the week given out on a Monday)	Tables/Number facts (Facts/Tables for the week given out on a Monday)
Mathletics		2 Tasks set weekly Optional 1000pt target per week					

Setting of Homework

- There will be **no homework set in the first and final week of each term**, with the exception of AR reading.
- **In June there will be a phased reduction of homework (except P6)**
- The pupils who are preparing to complete the SEAG assessment will be given additional homework at times.

Written Homework Completion

Tasks should be.....

- completed to a good standard
- submitted on a Thursday morning
- signed by Parent/Carer

Topic Assignments

Occasionally the written numeracy/literacy task will be replaced by a topic assignment (e.g. a project related to a class topic, Internet Safety task, Anti-Bullying Week task, house competitions)