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Port Charlotte Primary & Pre 5 Policy Statement

Homework

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Next Review: May 2017 (ready for next academic year)



PORT CHARLOTTE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PRE 5 POLICY STATEMENT

Homework

This document is available to all staff, parents, school council members and partners of Port Charlotte Primary School and Pre 5. This policy is intended to contain relevant background and procedures that support the schools' aims in relation to working with children, parents/carers, referral agencies and professional colleagues. All our staff share responsibility for its implementation.

All school staff are expected to have read and understood the policy statements.

Equal opportunities & Racial Equality

The principle of equality is central to the school's commitment to improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of our local community. All functions of Port Charlotte Primary School and Pre 5 will be carried in a way that promotes equality of opportunity.

The school and its staff positively promote racial equality in all areas of its work and have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination; promote equality of opportunity; and promote good relations between different racial groups.

Introduction:

We consulted our Parent Council in September 2016. The Consultation Questionnaire was completed by six parents present. Parents of Children in P2, P3, P4, P6 & P7 felt:

- That homework was of some importance
- That the child found the level of homework about right
- That the amount given was about right
- That we were sometimes able to help
- That reading was the most important for literacy (the reading journal was popular)
- That number facts and tables were the most important for Mathematics
- We support homework being given out each week because: it helps to develop independent working, parents are informed about school work and it prepares children for the future.

As a result of this consultation, discussion with teaching staff and also regarding research conducted into the impact of homework, we have revised our homework procedures. This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for homework at Port Charlotte Primary and Pre 5.

Aims of the Policy:

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework at Port Charlotte Primary.
- To establish how homework will be organised and how we ensure progression across the school.
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.

Provision and Practice:

Homework is an important part of the curriculum for pupils, and we provide regular homework for pupils in all year groups to:

- Support children's learning opportunities via reinforcement and revision, particularly in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and teachers to work in partnership.
- Share with parents the expectations school has regarding their child.
- Encourage the development of positive attitudes towards learning among children.
- Equip pupils, with the self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the increased demands of secondary school homework.

Homework enables children to practise and extend skills learned in the classroom, and also gives pupils a chance to undertake research and additional learning, as required. It involves parents (and other adults) in the children's work and we believe that homework encourages and improves independent learning.

What will Homework look like at Port Charlotte Primary?

We ask that reading homework is done every week and recorded in either the reading record or reading journal. All children will be provided with a homework jotter that will contain ideas and activities for maths and writing. If parents want to complete these activities then we ask that the jotter is sent back into school at the end of each term. A reminder will be sent out to parents.

Reading Book: Every child will have a reading book to take home. When appropriate, children will be given a reading journal to work in. In addition to this, the P1-3 children have the 'Friday Books' lending library and the P4-7 children visit the library van every 3 weeks.

Tic-Tac-Toe grids for Maths: Each child will be given a grid in their homework jotter to work through at home over the term. These grids will be differentiated depending on which curriculum level a child is working on and will focus on number facts and tables.

Examples of correct letter formation: A sheet highlighting the way we teach letter formation and joining will be provided in the homework jotter. Parents can use this if they want would like to support their child's handwriting.

Examples of high frequency words: High frequency words are words that occur most frequently in written material. Some of the high frequency words can be sounded out using basic phonic rules, e.g. "it" is an easy word to read using phonics. However, many of the high frequency words are not phonically regular and are therefore hard to read in the early stages. These words are sometimes called tricky words, sight words or camera words. Each child will be given a grid of words in their homework jotter. These grids will be differentiated depending on a child's spelling ability.

ICC or Endeavour projects: From P3 onwards, children are given the opportunity to lead their own learning through independent projects. Children may want to pursue this further at home and so we ask for parents' support with these projects.

Roles and Responsibilities

As a school we will plan purposeful activities, which are linked to the curriculum content. They will respond to children's efforts, providing encouragement and reward and will investigate the reasons for homework not being completed before responding with sanctions. Class teachers will ensure that tasks are set which are appropriate to meet the needs of all children, including those with special educational needs as well as those requiring further challenge.

Children are responsible for completing tasks as requested (with increasing independence as they move through the school) and to take responsibility for organising any information or equipment they require.

How can parents help?

At Port Charlotte Primary School we appreciate how important and valuable good home/school links are and the need for us all to work together to ensure a good education for all children. We ask that you listen to your child read and discuss the books they have brought home every week. Encourage your child to read words and books regularly (show them how important words are).

If you would like to help further you can:

- Choose and complete activities with your child from the Tic-Tac-Toe grids sent out each term.
- Help them to form letters the way they are taught at school starting at the correct point.
- Help them to read and write the High Frequency Words.

- Encourage your child to check over his/her work.
- Support your child with their ICC / Endeavour projects e.g. researching, making models, writing letters etc.

- Encourage your child to establish a homework routine which best suits them, e.g. not when they are becoming tired, etc.
- For younger children little and often is best - 10-15 minutes daily is a good habit. As children become older they should be encouraged to sustain their concentration for longer periods of time, and to work with increasing independence. We appreciate this isn't always possible every day but a minimum of 3-4 times a week should be encouraged.
- If a child struggles with an activity, try to avoid becoming anxious about it and approach your child's teacher as soon as you can. They will spend more time explaining the task to help you and your child.

Monitoring:

The policy will be monitored by the Head Teacher, in line with the Quality Assurance / School Self Evaluation processes.

Policy Review:

This policy will ordinarily be reviewed every two years. In addition this policy will be renewed in the light of changing national or local policies or priorities.