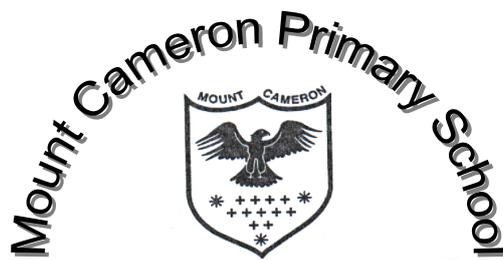
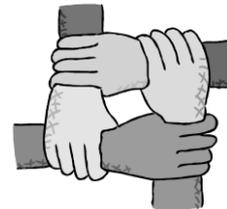


ED Impact Assessed
September 2010



Homework Position
Statement

September
2010



Rationale and links to a Curriculum for Excellence and raising standards

The purpose of A Curriculum for Excellence is to raise standards and help all children to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. Our Curriculum for Excellence encourages the active engagement of children in their learning, both at school and at home. Partnership home learning opportunities enhance children’s wider learning and achievements, raising standards. Targeted and engaging homework opportunities matched to ‘Curriculum for Excellence’ outcomes and the needs of both the child and family has an important part to play in the optimum achievement of every child and the development of lifelong learning.

At Mount Cameron homework and home learning is intended to contribute to quality learning and teaching for all children equally by extending the learning achieved within school time, laying the foundation for future self-supported home study, giving parents (as key partners) an opportunity to help their child with their learning and also promotes home/school partnership opportunities. Staff believe that quality education results from a sound partnership between home and school, building open and effective lines of communication, everyone having a common purpose to raise standards and getting it right for every child. Staff encourage the active support of parents/carers and other members of the community to contribute to providing the best possible outcomes for children, making every attempt to remove any barriers to the achievements of all children, in line with our school community aims.

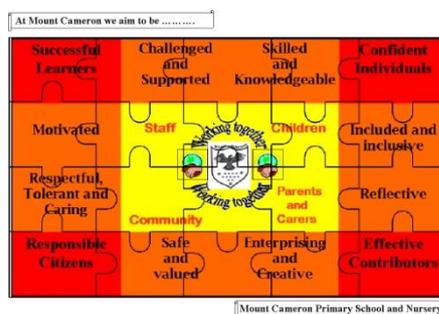
Why is homework important?

- Children have more opportunities to work on the experiences and outcomes of a Curriculum for Excellence and lifelong learning
- Children develop an awareness of how to organise and manage their time
- Children have the opportunity to take more responsibility for their learning
- Children enjoy collaborating with their parent/carer, sharing their learning and project outcomes
- Children practise and build on what they have learned at school
- Children have more opportunities to develop their confidence, perseverance and solve problems
- Children are engaged in active learning and learn to work both independently and collaboratively

At Mount Cameron Primary homework is highly valued and seen as a way to involve parents/carers in the variety of activities which relate to their child’s education. Home should be a place where children can practise, apply and refine the skills they have been taught in school. This does not need to be done only through set homework. It can be done by parents/guardians encouraging their children to read any ‘text’ material, through the use of ICT skills in the home or community and by promoting the relevance of literacy, numeracy and all curricular area outcomes in everyday life.

The Aims of Homework

- ❖ To raise standards of education through providing more opportunities for children to work on the purposes, principles, experiences and outcomes from a Curriculum for Excellence.
- ❖ To allow consolidation or exploration of class learning or engage children in leading initiatives.
- ❖ To engage children in active learning related to the world in which they live and develop life skills.
- ❖ To encourage parents and guardians to be involved in their child's learning in positive ways.
- ❖ To create channels for home/school communication. Parents/guardians and teachers will have the opportunity to comment, through the homework diary or jotter, on any aspect concerning their child's education.
- ❖ To place worth and value on research and independent enquiry.
- ❖ To encourage independence, good study habits and techniques.
- ❖ To encourage children to take ownership of, and responsibility for, their own next steps in learning.



Guidelines for Homework

These guidelines are fully matched to the purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence, additional needs and equality legislation. The targeted use of homework is aimed at all children having full access to the curriculum and meaningful experiences in learning.

- Staff will complete Curriculum for Excellence Forward/Responsive Planning and Evaluation sheets for homework matched to each planning block and curricular outcomes.
- A Parent Information Evening will be held at the start of the session so that all parents/carers have the opportunity to hear about planned homework activities and how parents/carers can help their child with learning.
- Staff will send home written guidance on homework for the coming year to keep parents/carers informed. Information will be updated if necessary as the session progresses.
- Homework tasks will be recorded for (or by) children in a class homework sheet or diary. Children should be encouraged to take responsibility for ensuring that homework materials are kept safe and brought to school at the appropriate time. Parents and children should be encouraged to put homework materials in a plastic wallet for transfer. Homework diaries should be used for two way communication between home and school.
- The diary and all appropriate work should be signed as seen by parents/guardians. Parents/guardians should help their child to check the work and children should be encouraged to make any relevant improvements. If the child is having difficulty with part of the homework, the parents/guardians should make a written comment in the diary to inform the teacher. If the parent is having difficulty with supporting the child in their home learning every attempt will be made to support the parent or adapt the homework.
- Staff should encourage children to present homework to the same standard as work presented in school, in line with school improvement code and display guidelines.

Guidelines for Homework (continued)

- There will be no homework set for the first and last weeks of each term.
- Homework is normally given out on a weekly basis. At some stages of the school the children may have several nights in which to complete the homework. This is to encourage children to take responsibility in planning their workload.
- Children/parents should be encouraged to let the teacher know if they have lost homework materials or have difficulty accessing ICT/printers so that every attempt can be made to help with this. This allows the child to make alternative arrangements to complete the tasks on time or arranging ICT access, ensuring that the child's learning is not disadvantaged.
- If a child fails to return completed homework without an acceptable reason on 3 occasions within a term, he/she will then proceed through the staged SMT consequences for this situation and a letter will be issued to the parent/carer to let them know about the situation.
- If a child is unwell and misses homework tasks they should not be asked to complete these at home when they return from illness unless a parent specifically requests this or there is a shared agreement between the teacher and parents that it is necessary. Children should be taught what they have missed in class as far as possible.
- Children work hard all day in school and need to have leisure time. In order to allow for this, we would recommend that time spent on homework is approximately 15 minutes per evening for P1, up to approximately 30 minutes for P7. Parents should be encouraged to talk with their child and find a suitable time in the day/week when the child would like to complete tasks and also discuss an appropriate place/learning environment for work to be completed.
- Parents/guardians should be encouraged to ask about any aspect of the homework which is unclear to them. Staff should advise parents about the way things are taught at school however should also encourage parents to use their own methods when appropriate, looking for many solutions to work on areas and matching these to the learning styles of the child.
- Teachers should consult their pupils regarding the issuing of homework and when it should be returned. They may also wish to negotiate with their pupils the format for individual homework tasks. Children should also be given a voice in evaluating home learning experiences so that they can be further refined to meet their needs.
- If parents/carers believe that they cannot effectively support home learning, plans should be made to either support parents or include the child of those parents in a homework club during the school day if there is any available flexibility in staffing.

Types of Appropriate Homework

The following is not prescriptive – they are only some suggestions. For more examples staff should see the Mount Cameron Homework Forward Planning sheet.

Nursery

'Story sacks', 'Pick up a Pencil' packs, gathering materials, investigations, collecting photographs, active learning tasks.

Primary

Language Tasks

- Practising reading
- Practising sounds
- Learning key words
- Learning spelling words
- Writing sentences using key words or spelling words
- Using a dictionary to find out meaning of words
- Learning poetry or songs
- Story sacks/ Gaelic 4 parents
- Text tasks
- Taking notes
- Poetry
- Interviewing
- Games
- Research

Mathematical tasks

- Learning tables
- Practical maths activities, e.g. calendar or time work
- Practising maths being covered in class
- Games, applying mathematical skills
- Active learning activities
- Research

Other tasks

- Show and tell
- Researching for topic information, including ICT/ Library activities
- Research and/or reporting on current affairs
- Activities involving the use of ICT/ library
- Health attack diaries
- Activities with emphasis on Health and wellbeing
- Use of mp3 and ipads
- Technology tasks
- Topic research
- Preparation for an exhibition
- School excursion tasks
- Any curricular area can have a literacy or numeracy task associated with it

Gaelic Department Home Learning

Home learning will involve a mix of appropriate approaches including the use of relevant, real-life and enjoyable contexts which build upon children and young people's own experiences

Early/ First level

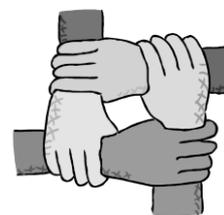
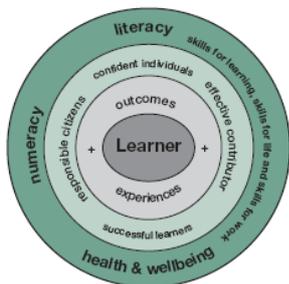
These levels are the immersion phase of Gaelic Medium Education and therefore the emphasis is on developing oral competence in the Gaelic language. Activities will be supportive of the development of Gaelic language acquisition, e.g. rhymes, song and drama.

P1/2: Oral acquisition will at this stage progress to phonic awareness and reading development and activities will support school learning.

First and Second level

Home learning encourages learners to practise, use and enrich their Gàidhlig. Appropriate activities will ensure the development of Gàidhlig language, grammar and structure. At these levels home learning will also begin to incorporate English language activities.





Mount Cameron Primary Homework Parent Leaflet

Homework and home learning is highly valued by the school and we hope that our parents and carers see it as a valuable way for them to support their child's learning and development. It is a way of letting our parents/carers know about the types of learning that their children are involved with in nursery or school and encourages parents/carers to actively engage in their child's learning. Home learning tasks are matched to the outcomes from a 'Curriculum for Excellence' and designed to raise standards in education for all children. Home learning opportunities are provided equally for all of our children. By supporting and encouraging your child in completing his/her homework it lets the child see that his/her parents also value homework.

Children will be given a Homework Sheet, Diary or Jotter and homework information from the teacher. Parents will also be invited to a Parent Information Evening at the start of each session and the teacher will use this meeting to talk with parents/carers about homework plans for the year. Parents are encouraged to use the diary or homework jotter for two-way communications between home and school. Homework diaries or jotters may also contain reminders of things to be brought to school, or of events that are happening in class or at school. If parents/carers are unsure about any information in the diaries/jotters please do not hesitate to contact the school. Please sign the diary each time. We would ask parents to encourage their child to keep homework jotters, sheets and reading books safe, and take them to and from school at the requested times, preferably in a plastic wallet. If a child is absent from school through illness, they will not be expected to catch up on missed homework at home unless both the teacher and parent believe that it is essential for the child at that stage.

Parents are asked to sign the homework (if appropriate) after each piece or block of work. You are also asked to involve your child in checking work done and encourage him/her to try to improve and display work to an acceptable standard. If any parents/carers feel that their child is having difficulty with any part of the homework, then they should make it known to the teacher by either writing a comment in the Homework Diary/Jotter or contacting the school as soon as possible. We do not, under any circumstances, want homework to be too much of a burden or for homework to cause any difficulties between parent and child so please get in touch with us if there is a problem. If a parent/carer has any difficulties (e.g. eyesight difficulties, dyslexia) which mean that they cannot fully help their child with homework, please again get in touch with us so that we can help you and your child. If families don't have access to computers or printers at home please let us know and we can help by sharing our resources. South Lanarkshire Libraries also have free access to computers for South Lanarkshire residents.

'Homework Help' websites

www.mountcameron-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk – Homework Help and useful websites for research, etc.

www.itscotland.org.uk/understandingthecurriculum/whatiscurriculumforexcellence/index.

www.bbc.co.uk/education/dynamo/parents

www.gaelic4me.com

www.itscotland.org.uk/parentzone/HelpWithHomework/Introduction.asp

Homework Hints

- Our Parent/Carer Information Evening in September will have let you know exactly what homework will be issued for your child and you can also have the opportunity to ask questions about the homework!
- Show that you value learning;
- Everyone is a learner - find out things together;
- Look for opportunities in everyday life to help your child learn;
- Don't be afraid to show your child your own way of working things out – we encourage our children to explore many solutions and ways of working to find the method that suits him/her best;

Climate for learning

- Find out **where** in the home your child works best (I learn best at home when....) and make this the homework 'base' with a tub of homework 'tools' (e.g. pencils, scissors);
- Develop a routine for your child to do homework - talk with your child about what works best for him/her and match it to suit your own family routines and needs (e.g. some children like to have a break and play when they come home from school before doing homework);
- Minimise distractions when your child is working on homework (e.g. no TV on) though some children work better with music on – ask your child;
- Talk to you child about how they learn, what are the best ways for him/her to learn;
- Encourage your child to have a 'can do' attitude to home learning tasks;
- Encourage your child to persevere, setting little achievable targets and timings for them, praising them regularly;
- When your child has completed homework sit down with him/her and encourage him/her to self assess the homework through the 'star and a wish' approach (one thing your child thinks is really good about their homework and one thing they think they can improve)

Above all, if a homework task is proving to be difficult and frustrating for you and your child then don't do the homework task but contact us at school so that we can help!

