

PORTFIELD SCHOOL & SATELLITE CENTRES



POLICY DOCUMENT FOR HOMEWORK



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Monitoring the Policy

This policy will be reviewed on a biennial basis unless changes of circumstances or legislation requires it to be amended earlier.

This policy was adopted by:

Signed:
Headteacher

Date:

Signed:
Chair of *Governors*

Date:

Portfield School Policy for Homework

Introduction

Portfield school vision and mission statement

"Working together Learning together Achieving together"

"At Portfield School we strive to

- Create a happy, safe, supportive and stimulating learning environment
- Value everyone
- Develop everyone's personal, social, emotional health and wellbeing
- Promote relevant academic and vocational skills
- Meet individual needs through an imaginative and flexible approach
- Enable all learners to achieve their full potential."

UNCRC United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Portfield School places the values and principles of the UNCRC at the heart all policies and practices
- Portfield School is a Rights Respecting School

"Homework is not a statutory requirement. However since 1998 all schools are required to have a written home - school agreement, explaining the respective responsibilities of schools and parents/carers in raising standards. Homework usually forms part of this agreement.

Estyn refer to homework as any learning activity that pupils are asked to do outside of normal lesson time, either on their own or with support from parents and carers.

This policy is designed to set out Portfield School's approach and expectations in relation to homework and should be read in conjunction with the policies for teaching and learning and assessment. Termly parent's evenings are used to explain to parents the schools approach.

Homework for pupils with Special educational needs

Finding out how children learn can help to ensure opportunities for learning and reinforcing skills are maximised both in school and at home. Many of the pupils at Portfield have additional sensory difficulties and the opportunity to maximise learning in every situation is crucial. Therefore Portfield school sets individual education plans for all pupils

and these are shared and agreed with parents. This provides an opportunity for about three objectives every term for each child to be worked on at home and in school.

The value of homework

Homework is now established in many schools both primary and secondary. The main value of homework is to help parents and carers

- Develop a culture of learning
- Work in partnership with schools
- Understand the ways in which children learn and, in particular, extend the understanding of learning through play activities
- Contribute to children's learning
- Consolidate where appropriate work covered in lessons
- Access books and materials to support learning.
- Help pupils as appropriate develop the skills of independent learning.
- Allow pupils to work at a pace that is appropriate to their abilities

"The process of early mutual sharing of learning is developed throughout the child's education. Parents and carers become more aware of the learning strategies and demands of the curriculum and are able to encourage their children. Importantly, parents and carers also become learners and their own skills are enhanced." Estyn

What type of homework is set

- Individual education plan (IEP) targets. These are agreed with parents/carers and all can be practiced at home
- Shared reading. A reading book is chosen by the child and sent home on a weekly basis for the parent/carer to share and read with their child.
- Structured reading scheme books. These will also be sent home regularly depending on the needs of the individual. Some children will have a daily reading book sent home.
- Secondary age pupils where appropriate will receive homework related to the curriculum covered usually to support the development of key skills or a particular topic studied. This may be in the format of a learning log or journal. For some pupils it may be inappropriate to send home a formal piece of homework. These

pupils will be developing their skills through more informal homework which are linked to IEP's

- Use of a range of situations that parents may involve their pupils in eg. shopping to develop money handling skills, visits to the park to develop physical skills, visit to the hydrotherapy pool to improve muscle tone.
- Use of computer programmes. Where appropriate teachers may recommend programmes or internet sites as appropriate for pupils. Some children will be working on switch access to control programmes and parents/carers are supported by school to select and use appropriate resources with their children.
- "Learning Logs" or "Learning Journals" to record activities and experiences during longer breaks such as Christmas, Easter and summer holidays.

How much time should be spent on homework

At Portfield school we do not set a specific amount of time for homework for pupils but work on a more individual basis depending on the needs of the pupil and family. This is discussed with parents at the regular termly parent's evenings that take place at school.