

## Useful Websites/Apps

- [www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents)
- <http://www.topmarks.co.uk>
- [www.mathfactory.com](http://www.mathfactory.com)
- <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>
- <http://www.spellingcity.com/>
- <http://www.Kidspell.com>
- Rosetta Stone language courses (you can purchase the programs or request them from your local library)
- Sudoku: <http://www.websudoku.com/?level=2>
- Musical/Math Fun: <http://www.philtulga.com/Fraction%20Tubes.html>
- Use Google Earth/Google mapper to measure distance, find routes, calculate travel times, learn about/see geographical names and places. Find your own house, find your school, etc.
- [Kidhealth.com](http://Kidhealth.com)
- <http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/website>
- <http://www.coolmath4kids.com/>
- <http://www.aplusmath.com/>
- <http://www.starfall.com>
- <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/math.html>
- <http://nwf.org/kids>
- <http://mathcats.com/explore.html>
- [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org)
- <http://discoverykids.com/games/>
- [www.multiplication.com](http://www.multiplication.com)

MELROSE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Home Learning Policy and Practice

'... homework exercises can be an invaluable guide to learning, but the exercises must be clear and relevant to learning aims. The feedback on them should give each pupil guidance on how to improve, and each must be given opportunity and help to work at the improvement.'

*Inside the black box - Paul Black and Dylan William 1990*

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Review: March 2018

## Rationale and Aims

The purpose of home learning (homework) is to encourage independence, develop a growth mind-set and give children the opportunity to develop personal interests and curiosity. To be effective, home learning must be meaningful and productive. Research evidence advocates that short, focused home learning tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework.

Any activity should help develop a life-long love of learning and equip children with the skills for life and for the future. Home learning must be stress free and enjoyable for both children and parents/carers. Parental/carer interest and encouragement of children's efforts in school and at home contributes positively to children's education and progress. Evidence shows that the more a parent/carer is involved with their child's learning, the more the child will benefit. We recognise that life is busy and it is important that children have the chance to take part in other interests outside school. Extra-curricular activities such as sports, music practice, clubs and playing outside will also greatly enhance children's learning and all-round development.

Home learning should reflect our school's vision, values and aims.

## The Nature of Home Learning

We encourage home learning; the nature of home learning tasks will compliment learning which takes place in school.

We encourage the sharing and enjoyment of books as the main home learning activity at every stage. This could include: a child being read to by another person, discussing books and texts in the environment e.g. road signs, shop signs, posters etc. and a child reading to themselves or another person. Whatever the approach, it should be a positive experience at all times for all parties.

Other home learning tasks which are given will vary depending on the age, stage and needs of the child. These tasks will be short and focused in keeping with research evidence. In recognition of current lifestyles, adequate time will be given for tasks to be completed. No task will be given for the following day.

Research tasks for older children will be set over a longer period of time. They will be expected to take responsibility for the time management for the completion of a task. These tasks will be designed to encourage an enquiring approach to learning and develop the discipline of taking time to complete a task to a high standard. The tasks may also be a springboard for children leading their own learning.

## Feedback

Feedback will be given in various ways e.g. written, oral, teacher and/or peer discussion etc. Feedback will be specific, accurate and clear in keeping with current guidance.

*"Feedback redirects or refocuses either the teacher's or the learner's actions to achieve a goal, by aligning effort and activity with an outcome. It can be about the learning activity itself, about the process of activity, about the student's management of their learning or self-regulation or (the least effective) about them as individuals. This feedback can be verbal, written, or can be given through tests or via digital technology. It can come from a teacher or someone taking a teaching role, or from peers."*

Scottish Attainment Challenge: Learning & Teaching Toolkit 2017

## Examples of home learning tasks

### Literacy

- Consolidation of phonics (P1-2), active literacy packs, reading, spelling, writing and handwriting

### Numeracy

- Times tables, number bonds, number recognition etc. Familiarity with simple mathematical processes are better practised orally and mentally to improve recall, in line with our numeracy and maths learning
- Active numeracy packs, practical maths tasks and worksheets

### Other

- Learning a Scots poem, research activities relating to class work/theme, creative tasks etc.