



**Elrick Primary School**  
**Homework Policy**  
**August 2023 (updated March 2024)**



## Rationale

Elrick Primary School recognises that parents and other carers are the first educators of their own children and the important role that they can play in helping children understand and consolidate their school-based learning. To achieve this, parents require the school to share its expectations with them and its homework policy.

At Elrick we do our best to nurture every child to reach their full potential, supporting them to have the skills and confidence to embrace the world in which we live. We feel that homework supports children to become Responsible Citizens, Effective Contributors, Successful Learners and Confident Individuals.



## Purpose of Homework

At Elrick Primary School we recognise several purposes of homework, including:

- Practice and consolidation of classwork – homework provides the opportunity for review and reinforcement of classroom learning. It helps solidify concepts, practise skills and develop a deeper understanding of the material.
- Preparation for future learning – homework can serve as preparation for upcoming lessons. It can introduce new topics or concepts before they are covered in class and facilitate more productive classroom discussions.
- Encouragement of independent work – homework encourages children to take responsibility for their own learning and fosters independence by requiring students to work without the guidance of a teacher.
- Development of good habits and self-discipline – completing homework teaches valuable time management skills. Pupils learn how to balance homework with other activities and meet deadlines. It also helps pupils develop effective study habits and routines which can benefit them as they progress through their education and encounter more challenging work.
- Parental/carers co-operation – homework can allow parents and carers to become involved in their child's education. Parents can support children by assisting with assignments, discussing concepts and reinforcing good study habits.
- Nurtures learning conversations – homework assignments can serve as a bridge between home and school environments. As well as providing a window into what the children are learning, it allows parents to be involved in academic progress.

## Principles of Homework

Homework is part of the learner journey and all children and young people in Scotland are entitled to experience a coherent curriculum from 3-18. In order that they have the opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills and attributes, they need to adapt, think critically and flourish in today's world.



At Elrick Primary School we have identified that homework should meet the following guidelines for effective homework practice:

- Align with learning goals – homework should be aligned with the curriculum and learning intentions of the child's stage of learning. It will be purposeful and encompass broader educational goals of the school.
- Age appropriate – homework assignments should be tailored to the developmental stage of the students and meet their level of ability and need.
- Clear and manageable - homework assignments should be clearly explained, and students should understand the task requirements. Homework assignments will be planned with consideration to age and stage appropriate timescales. Homework will be issued weekly.
- Balanced and variable – homework assignments will be given from a variety of curricular areas including reading, spelling, numeracy and cross curricular activities.

## Roles

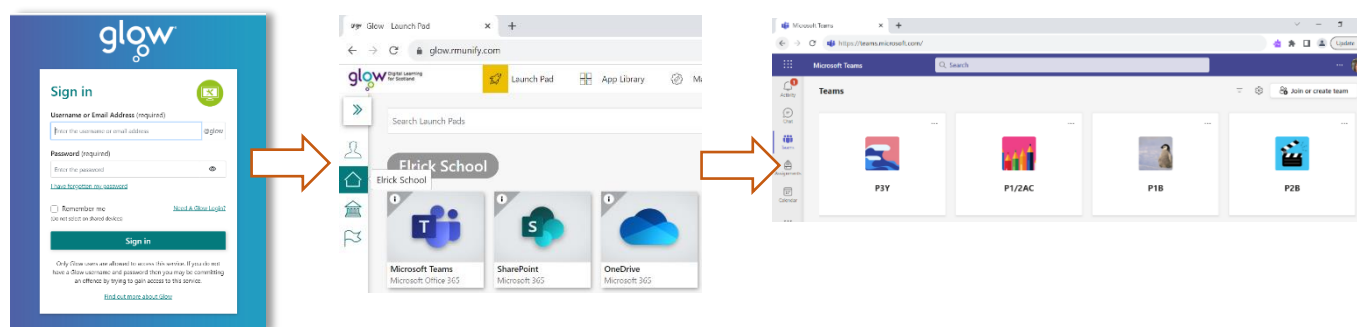
School Role	Pupil Role	Parent Role
<b>The school's role is to:</b>  Provide clear guidance to enable successful completion of task.  Ensure homework is set consistently.  Set homework that is interesting, at an appropriate level, and consistent with learning.  Provide feedback.  Give recognition of effort and achievement.  Inform parents of any concerns regarding the completion or standard of homework submitted.  Provide support to help with the completion of homework when needed (i.e, Homework club)	<b>The pupil's role is to:</b>  Make time to complete homework.  Complete tasks to the best of their ability.  Share homework with an adult.  Ask for help from school or home if required.  Hand in completed homework on time.	<b>The parent's role is to:</b>  Know the school expectations of children and parents.  Talk to their children about what they are learning, show interest and encourage.  Listen to their children.  Support children with homework tasks without completing it for them.  Raise any concerns with the school.

## Homework Guidelines

<b>EARLY LEVEL (N-P1)</b> <i>Experiential and play-based learning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading with a parent</li> <li>• Play experiences: counting and early maths/talking and listening/phonics</li> </ul>
<b>FIRST LEVEL (P2-4)</b> <i>Embedding foundations of numeracy and literacy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading practice with a parent</li> <li>• Reading for pleasure</li> <li>• Spelling practice</li> <li>• Maths number bonds and times tables practice</li> <li>• Opportunities to explore practical maths skills such as measure, shape, time</li> </ul>
<b>SECOND LEVEL (P5-7)</b> <i>Applying and integrating all aspects of learning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading for pleasure</li> <li>• Consolidating and applying maths and numeracy skills</li> <li>• Consolidating and applying skills for writing</li> <li>• Opportunities for personal interest projects</li> </ul>

We recognise that families have different preferences as to how homework is issued and completed and therefore homework may be completed in written or digital form. All children will be given a Homework jotter where they can complete tasks. Children will also have access to their Class Team, where homework may be uploaded.

All children in second level will be expected to access homework through their Class Team. This may then be completed digitally through GLOW or in their homework jotter.



## Reading

All pupils will be encouraged to read at home every week. We are very keen to promote the enjoyment of reading and a love of books. In order to become confident readers who understand and can apply reading skills in a variety of situations children require to read and discuss a wide variety of texts. We will ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to read both fiction and non fiction books. Children may be asked to read books at their own pace, may be directed to read specific parts of a book or may be encouraged to read a book together with an adult. Children in any one class or group will not necessarily be reading the same material. Children may be asked to undertake a task related to reading. Reading skills and strategies will be taught in school and reinforced through homework. The following are examples of the types of reading homework:

- Sharing a book with parents – asking questions about the characters, story, what might happen next etc.

- Parents reading a book to the child.
- Paired reading – adult/child read together and separately.
- Reading a part of a book with a specific purpose e.g. be able to talk about the characters in a chapter of a book.
- Ongoing reading of novels with children sharing the key features and opinions of the book in class.
- Reading for information e.g. identifying the features of a newspaper article/poem/report.

### **Spelling**

Spelling will be taught in school, using the Highland Literacy Progression and a variety of approaches and resources which support this. Spelling starts in P1 when children are first introduced to the sounds and will develop throughout primary school. Children may also be asked to practise words at home, find new words either in the word family, tricky words or context words for their project, or carry out a task which will allow them to apply their skills.

### **Maths**

Maths and numeracy are core skills for life and will therefore form part of the children's regular homework. It is important that children are confident and secure in their use of numbers and develop their mental agility skills. Making learning meaningful, relevant and fun is a key feature of the Curriculum for Excellence. We will support this in school and would encourage children to practise and apply their knowledge and skills out of school. Pupils will be encouraged to explain their thinking/methods of working to other pupils, staff and parents. This is invaluable to the learning process. Pupils will also be encouraged to recognise numbers in a range of contexts, practise basic number bonds and times table facts; oral practice at home develops confidence and competence to allow pupils to tackle more complex problems. Maths homework may be oral or written and both are equally important. The following are examples of types of Maths homework:

- Recognising and writing numbers.
- Learning number facts and tables.
- Building speed and accuracy in number and table facts.
- Maths games.
- Practical activities eg finding containers at home which contain 1 litre, reading timetables/TV guides.
- Maths challenge/problem solving activity.

### **Cross Curricular Tasks**

In addition to core skills in literacy and numeracy, children will have the opportunity to engage in homework tasks which relate to other areas of the curriculum or will develop personal and social skills and encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle. These tasks will take a variety of forms such as listening to the news, research, physical activity, listening to music etc. The following are examples of types of cross curricular homework:

- Talking about a family pet, hobby, place of interest.
- Finding items from the past.
- Finding out about a charity
- Carrying out a questionnaire/survey
- Reporting back on 2 key items of news
- Running, jogging or skipping for 10 minutes every day
- Sharing a favourite piece of music, group, band, playing an instrument
- Fact finding on a particular country, person.