



Family Learning Policy

"Families who take on a supportive role in their children's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour." (Education Scotland)

At Carntyne Primary, we recognise that parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life. This policy will outline our aims for family learning and the ways in which we will work together to enable parents and carers to support their children's learning at school and at home. We believe that families should be:

- involved with their children's education and learning;
- welcomed as an active participant;
- and encouraged to express their views on education.

Family Learning at School

We aim to provide plenty of opportunities for parents and carers to engage with their children's learning at school. These include:

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| - class assemblies | - after-school clubs | - parent council |
| - open afternoons | - drop-in sessions | - school trips |
| - parents' evenings | - reading with classes | - volunteering |

Working in partnership with families helps us to ensure that children are included, participating, achieving and progressing very well in their learning. We are always working to develop new ways to include families in learning at school.

Family Learning at Home

We want to give families the opportunity, skills and knowledge to support their children's learning across the curriculum at home.

We carried out a survey with parents, carers, children and teachers to help us decide what home learning should look like in our school. After this consultation (see Appendix 1) we were able to see clearly that although most parents and carers supported their children being given homework, the current format was causing the majority of families 'tension and arguments at home'. Parents and children agreed that they learn a lot from doing homework, but most families also agreed that they did not enjoy doing homework most of the time. This evidence shows us that we need a different approach to home learning that will be engaging, enjoyable and which helps to support families to learn together at home.

Home learning will now be given out **once per term**. Your children will receive a grid for Literacy and a grid for Numeracy & Maths. These grids will be created together by teachers and children, and activities will link closely with their learning in class. Your children will also be given Topic activities as and when appropriate, a list of High Frequency Words to learn over the year and some classes will also issue spelling words and/or phonemes (sounds) to be practised at home to support your children as they learn to read and write.

At Carntyne Primary School we believe family learning should be:

Flexible, Active, Motivational, Iimportant, Linked, Your Choice

<u>F</u>lexible	We understand that family life is busy! We want to ensure that family learning is done at a time that suits you. This means that home learning tasks will be flexible – some weeks you may choose to do a few activities, other weeks you may not manage any.
<u>A</u>ctive	Active learning engages and challenges children's thinking. At school and at home, children learn best when they are playing, talking, exploring and investigating. Home learning tasks should encourage these types of learning.
<u>M</u>otivational	Family learning should be fun! It is important that children learn about things they are interested in. If children want to do home learning activities, they will be a more enjoyable experience. By providing plenty of choice, we hope to increase engagement.
<u>I</u>important	We know that family time is important. Home learning activities should encourage positive family experiences – playing, talking, and sharing. You may even decide to engage in alternative activities and experiences that fit in better with your family life.
<u>L</u>inked	Many of the home learning activities will link with the learning which is happening in class each term. This means you can find out more about what your children are doing at school, and your children can share their learning with you.
<u>Y</u>our Choice	Home learning tasks will not be marked or checked by the class teacher. Teachers will, however, encourage children to share and celebrate their family learning achievements in class. It is your choice when and how much you engage with tasks.

Remember

Home learning is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, spending time reading a story with your child before bedtime, watching an educational video, asking your child to help with quantities and prices when shopping, gardening, or playing a board game are all ways you are helping your children with their learning at home.

“Research consistently demonstrates that where parents are involved with their children's education and learning both at home and in partnership with the school, their children do better and achieve more. These benefits can be long-lasting and extend to better health, relationships and improved employment prospects.” (Education Scotland, 2014)