

Parent / Carer Homework Help Tips

'When parents and schools work together children do better.' (Guidance on the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006)

Students are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in their homework — it shows your child that what they do is important.

Of course, helping with homework shouldn't mean spending hours hunched over a desk. Parents/Carers can be supportive by demonstrating study and organization skills, explaining a tricky problem, or just encouraging their child to take a break. And who knows? Parents / Carers might even learn a thing or two!

Here are some subject specific Tips to guide the way from our Principal Teachers:

Business Studies and ICT

The homework that is issued, checks for understanding about what has been covered in class or it is work in preparation for the next lesson.

Examples:

1. S1 Word Processing homework:

- Students will need to identify when it is appropriate to use a word processor.
- Students will need to correctly reorder a business letter.

2. S1 Database homework:

- Students will need to think of field types and data types for a topic of their choice and find out the relevant information.

We would ask if a parent/carer could supervise the completion of any homework set.

English

At the BGE stage, a lot of homework, is to read library/personal reading books. If your child has a book they are reading, ask them questions about it – what is it about? What do they think will happen next? Who is their favourite character? For example.

For writing homework (finishing off an essay started in class) reading the essay aloud would help your child to identify technical errors, so listen to them reading their work.

Another common type of homework is to research a topic. If this is the case, you could ask your child to explain what their topic is, what they have found out, and where they found the information.

Maths

The key things, that will help you to complete your Maths homeworks, are looking back at notes and examples in jotters and relating them to the task that you are doing.

Students are often anxious to use a different method to one that may have been demonstrated to them in class by their teacher. If you get help from someone at home and understand their method better, use it! It may do you a favour in the long run.

Act on feedback from previous tasks. Your teacher has given you steps on how to improve and now you need to use them.

Science

When completing homework always have the relevant student notes out in front of you for support.

Important facts and definitions needed for successful completion of the homework will be highlighted in the notes. If you are asked to solve problems, the notes will contain fully worked out examples, of a similar type.

Do not leave the homework until the night before it is due to be handed in. If you try the homework as soon as it is issued, the work will still be fresh in your mind and if you are really stuck, it always gives you an opportunity to ask your teacher for help before the due deadline.

Social Studies

Across all four Social Subjects there are a few tips that can help.

In general, our homeworks require some extended writing or a bit of research. One key point is that parents should ensure that homework is not copied and pasted from

the internet. It is far too easy to do and is very obvious to us as teachers. Pupils learn nothing from this process and will just have to complete the task again.

A student must fully explain their answer, using the question asked, justifying with evidence. Simply listing answers is unacceptable.

A student must be aware of the difference between describe and explain as a prompt for the questions.

- Describe – what are the key features of something i.e. the key feature of a coastline.
- Explain – why is something happening, what are the reasons?

Technical

If you are unsure of what to do when completing any homework always remember to ask questions of your teacher to clarify.

Use technology to your advantage by accessing websites related to the task. Websites such *technologystudent.com* have excellent FREE resources available. Review your TEAMS page as it will also have good information for you to use even if it's the submission date.

Within the Technical Department there are computers available for every student to use before school, during breaktime, lunchtime and after school to ensure you are able to complete homework on time. In the unlikely event you are unable to meet the submission date then speak with the teacher in advance.

Finally, here are Tips already shared:

- 1) Know the teachers — and what they're looking for. Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework and how you should be involved.
- 2) Set up a homework-friendly area. Make sure your child/ren have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue, scissors — within reach.
- 3) Schedule a regular study time. Some children work best in the afternoon, following a snack; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
- 4) Help them make a plan. On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child/ren to break up the work into

manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary — and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.

5) Keep distractions to a minimum. This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)

6) Make sure your child/ren do their own work. They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parent/carers can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a child's job to do the learning.

7) Be a motivator and monitor. Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.

8) Set a good example. Do your children ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Children are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.

8) Praise their work and efforts. Post an aced test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.

9) If there are continuing problems with homework, get help. Talk about it with your child's teacher. Some children have trouble seeing the board and may need glasses; others might need an evaluation for a learning problem or attention disorder.

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/homework.html>