

Acting Head Teacher: Ruth Verner

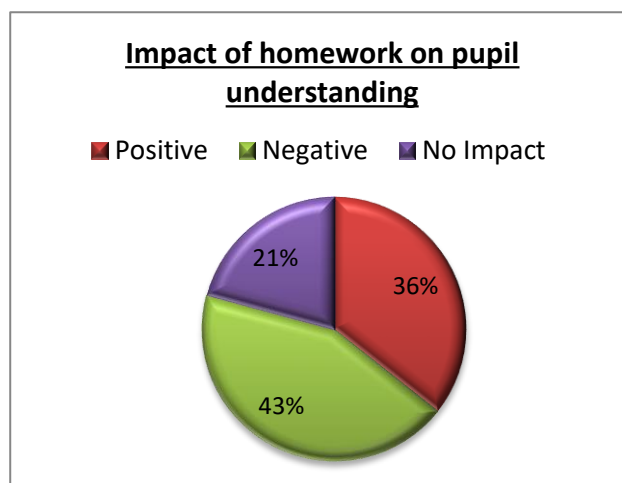
Education
Park Primary School
Kerrera Terrace
Dunollie, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5AU
Tel: 01631 563941

email: enquiries-park@argyll-bute.gov.uk
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you so much for taking part in the homework enquiry. The evidence that was gathered has now been analysed and the results are as follows:

- 36% of pupils showed increased understanding with homework
- 43% of pupils showed decreased understanding with homework
- 21% of pupils showed no change



When some pupils were asked why they think their understanding decreased, the responses were:

“My dad tried to help me with my maths but he confused me more. It was different from the way my teacher showed me.”

“We had done so much work in class, so I didn’t try very hard with my homework. I actually didn’t practise my spelling words at all.”

“I was really tired because I have loads of clubs to go to, so I did my homework at the last minute. I always argue with my mum about having to do homework. But I’d already done work like this in class – I didn’t see the point.”

When teachers were asked why they think understanding had decreased with homework, the responses were:

“I noticed that in the first half of the study the children worked harder in class. It’s as if they realised they couldn’t rely on homework as reinforcement so they would need to focus more in class.”

“The children were much more engaged in class during weeks one to four. They had more energy and excitement for learning. I believe it was because they had time to enjoy themselves at home each night, which meant they weren’t as stressed and had had a good night’s sleep. It made a huge difference because they were more ready to learn when they came into class each morning.”

When asked to describe the home environment during weeks 1-4 when homework was removed, the most common responses were:



After week 4, parents were asked their views on homework. 49% of parents believe homework to be beneficial, but 44% do not.

However, at the end of the project these views changed. 29% of parents now believe homework is beneficial for their child, but 54% do not feel it is beneficial. 17% of parents are now unsure of their views on homework.

85% of pupils believe homework is not beneficial.

What is the function of homework? Teachers believe homework is used to reinforce class learning. When parents and pupils were asked what they like about homework the responses were:

Aspect of Homework	Parents	Pupils
Routine	3%	
Awareness of ability/ knowledge of learning taken place	20%	
Reinforcement/ Support	11%	10%
Interaction with family	20%	10%
Develops independent study	10%	
Something to do		17%
Reduces use of technology	1%	10%
Nothing	25%	53%

When pupils and parents were asked what they liked about having no homework, the responses were:

Responses Given	Parents	Pupils
Time	36%	54%
Less stress	30%	30%
Opportunity to read more	10%	14%
Nothing	24%	3%

Regarding ‘Time’, parents and pupils spoke of having additional time for playing outside, attending clubs and spending time together as a family.