
HOMEWORK

Rationale

At Kintore School we recognise the important role homework plays in creating positive and meaningful communication between home and school. We acknowledge that as the child moves through the school, the amount, the frequency and the nature of homework tasks will vary according to the individual child and to curricular objectives.

Organisation

At Kintore School we would aim to set homework tasks that are:

- Varied
- Well explained (mostly in writing) and with clear purpose
- Related to classroom work
- Manageable in the time given
- Challenging but not too difficult
- Likely to promote confidence through success
- Recognised and rewarded
- Primarily the responsibility of the learner himself or can be supported/supervised by parents/guardians.

From the earliest days of primary the most valuable form of home learning is where parents play a key role in working with their children, not simply hearing their reading, but consciously interacting with the children in promoting language skills and numeracy. Homework tasks can arise from most areas of the curriculum e.g. maths, expressive arts, environmental studies and health.

Reading

Reading homework is consistently given to pupils at all stages.

In the early stages of reading this involves:

- Reading to the child and sharing stories with him/her
- Practising key words
- Discussing the pictures and storyline

As the child becomes more fluent:

- Listening to the child read
- Ensuring full understanding through discussion about the text/illustrations/characters/plot and vocabulary.

For the fluent reader:

- Listening to the child read **some** of the text
- Discussion as above but extend to author, setting, style
- Encouragement for the child to read more on a topic, or similar books by the same author etc.

At all stages reading should be valued.

Maths

For every stage in the school there are appropriate maths homework packs which should be used regularly for homework. These consist of tasks and games which parents/carers are encouraged to participate in with their child. To ensure all pupils have access to Maths homework packs a timetable for their use exists.

Time allocation

This is difficult as different children work at different rates. Generally speaking we would not expect a pupil in the early stages to stay on task for more than fifteen minutes and a senior pupil for about thirty minutes per evening. This would include assigned reading. However, we do acknowledge that many children have a great deal of other activities in the evening and would assign work over a number of days providing pupils with the opportunity to manage and organise their time. Pupil's access to resources will be carefully considered in the design and allocation of homework tasks.

Specific Issues

The Homework Environment – The most important thing a parent can do is simply take an interest in the child's work. Apart from trying to provide the correct time and place for homework completion parents could:

- Ask what has to be done and check the homework jotter
- Don't think that sending the child to a room for several hours will mean that the work will be done.....encourage them.
- Sign the finished work
- If you are unsure about procedure etc. feel free to write a note to the teacher in the homework jotter
- Help your child to plan; short, regular sessions during the week are often better than last minute efforts

Unfinished Class Work

This type of work will only be sent home once the teacher has ascertained if he/she has:

- 1) already provided the child with enough time bearing in mind any learning difficulties, stage of development, other activities during the day etc .
- 2) provided adequate preparation
- 3) knowledge of the child's background and the type of support he/she is likely to receive

After these considerations, it may still be necessary to send work home. This must be recorded by the teacher and the work signed by parents.

If having to take work home occurs regularly the Head Teacher must be informed.

Term Time Holidays

It is not school policy to provide children with work to be completed during vacations. This is because much of what goes on in the primary school depends on direct teacher intervention, use of materials etc. If they wish, children could keep a diary of their holiday which can be shared with their class.

On their return however, they may be given extra assignments/teaching time to catch up on key outcomes. This will be done over a period of time and we would ask for parental support in this.

Illness

Children who are ill should use the time to recuperate. However, should a child be convalescing and be off school for a considerable time the class teacher will certainly provide work to be done at home providing the ongoing work of the class is suitable for completion without direct input.

Sanctions

Whilst we recognise homework is a crucial aspect of learning we also recognise that homework is done outside school in pupil's own time. All homework should be useful and relevant to the child and the child should be given further opportunity to return the task. However, at no time should valuable teaching time be lost while a teacher pursues late homework.

Should this continue to be a problem, the Head Teacher will be informed and parents contacted allowing both home and school to work together to help the child. Consistent failure to do homework might well be a symptom of another kind of problem.

Parents will be informed as to the homework routine via the class termly newsletter.

This policy was drawn up after full consultation with pupils, parents and staff.