

REINWOOD INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Homework policy

(Reviewed Summer 08)

Introduction

At Reinwood Infant & Nursery School, our aim is to develop and extend our children's learning by developing a partnership with parents and involving them actively in a range of relevant and purposeful activities which will contribute to raising children's achievement. Homework will be part of this wider partnership.

Development

This policy was compiled through a process of consultation with staff, taking into account previous policy documents and methods of working. Reference has been made to the 'DFEE Homework' document and 'Kirklees Homework in Primary schools' guidelines. It is integral to all other curriculum policies.

The Nature of Homework

The key elements for the effectiveness of homework are:

- An informed partnership between all parents and the school
- All pupils in all year groups to participate (wherever possible)
- Homework planned to compliment and extend learning
- Positive feedback to be given to pupils about the work done.

Aims

1. To provide opportunities for parents and children to work and enjoy learning experiences together.
2. To provide carefully planned and structured work to support progression.
3. To have a regular routine so that teachers, parents and children know what expectations there are.
4. To communicate clearly to parents and pupils about what to do.
5. To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school and particularly in the year groups.
6. To have high expectations of pupils.
7. To give some feedback and encouragement to the children.
8. To develop the confidence and self-discipline of the children.

Implementation

A variety of strategies are in place to develop good communication and a sound partnership with parents through:

- A regular newsletter home at the beginning of each half term saying what homework is to be a focus.
- The school web-site to give weekly of any homework to be covered for that half term.
- Home-visits to provide information in Nursery.
- Information evenings across school throughout the year to give advice on homework ideas - Reception Induction meetings, SAT's evenings etc
- Parents Evenings – All year groups
- Friday Achievement assemblies
- Literacy & Numeracy Information sheets
- Through the Home-School Partnership book

Home/School Link – Outline of regular types of activities

In each year group there are activities/homework suggestions, which are sent home on a weekly basis. In the main, these have a Literacy, Numeracy or Science emphasis. In years 1 & 2, children begin to extend the range of activities which they are asked to complete. At present, no amount of time has been stated by the school for doing homework. It is recommended that only short amounts of time are appropriate, especially with the younger children, otherwise the activities may become counter productive. We can not however, stress enough the importance of regular sharing times together.

Nursery

- Parents are encouraged to read a variety of books to their children. They are also encouraged to use everyday situations for counting and communication with their children.
- Through the ½ termly 'My work in nursery', parents are given information about the work being covered and offered ideas about how to develop them at home.

Reception

- The Oxford Reading Tree scheme books are for parents and children to share together. A story sheet and a letter for parents to help guide them through the activity are included in the early stages.
- A Home-school partnership book in which parents, teachers & ETA's can write a comment about the children's progress is sent home on a regular basis.
- Oxford Reading Tree games to support the work of the reading scheme and teach key words are also used and sent home where appropriate.
- Children are given a 'Sound and Word book' based on the 'Jolly Phonics'. This is checked each week. The sounds are always taught before they are sent home.
- Library books (colour coded to match the level of reading) can be borrowed regularly throughout the week.
- Children are encouraged to learn nursery rhymes and counting games.

Years 1 & 2

- Oxford Reading Tree books are sent home on a weekly basis. Teachers, parents, and NNEBs/ ETAs will make comments in the Home-School Partnership book.
- Library books can be borrowed regularly throughout the week.
- Homework is set weekly and is sent home in the child's **Learning Log**. Tasks are open ended and so as much or as little can be done as the children have the time and interest; these may involve practical work, e.g. Mini-beasts – Exploring the garden to find out where different creatures live, phonics, High Frequency Words, Maths challenges and handwriting. (½ termly letters and on school website).
- Weekly Spelling lists – These become progressively more difficult during the year.

Cross-curricular links

Although homework is mainly core subject based, it is also set in a range of different subjects so that the children can have extra opportunity to practise and extend their skills and knowledge throughout the curriculum.

Equal Opportunity & Inclusion

With regard to ability, gender, culture and race, we have a selection of dual language books and also use 2 differentiated reading schemes – Oxford Reading Tree and Heinemann Story World. We also have a range of library books in the classroom which are colour coded to correspond to ORT levels. Comments in reading record books also correspond to the children's ability and appropriate challenges are set. Spellings are also differentiated so that all children have the opportunity to succeed. Other homework set is differentiated where appropriate.

Special Needs

When planning for Homework, we take in to account the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of all the children. Those who do have difficulty in making progress through the curriculum would be said to have SEN and will be given extra support through differentiated work so that they can play a fuller part in activities. Their progress will be tracked and monitored through ANPs and regular meetings with the Inclusion Manager.

Provision for gifted and talented

We provide for the more able children as a result of early identification of ability and through teacher observation and assessment. Children, who appear to have a particular aptitude for a certain subject, will be given extra challenges in their homework where appropriate, to extend their thinking and learning.

Raising Ethnic Minority Achievement

Our aim is to provide an inclusive curriculum where there is awareness and valuing of all cultures, with the aim being to raise the achievement of our ethnic minority pupils. Extra support for homework will be given where appropriate. A bilingual support worker may explain activities/homework with parents on how they can be effective in their child's learning experiences.

Information Technology

Homework is available on the school website and some homework may also be encouraged to be researched through the use of I.C.T.

Recording & Reporting

All homework is recognised and valued by the staff. All pieces are marked with an achievement stamp or teacher comment. Homework achievements are celebrated with the children in class and at achievement assembly.

E.T.A support

ETAs/ NNEBs have responsibility for preparing the homework sheets in each Learning Log and updating the school website.

Parents

Support from families is vital if children are to gain as much as possible from the tasks set and understand the relevance of the challenges to real life. Children need opportunities to practise and reinforce their developing skills in everyday situations outside the classroom. Parents will be informed of the importance of encouraging their child with homework through an information sheet sent out at the beginning of each half term.

Review

Discussed with staff: Summer 2008

Presented to governors: Summer 2008

Review date: Summer 2011