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| Name of Policy: | HOMEWORK POLICY including Virtual Learning |
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| Date: | January 2011 |
| Responsibilities – | Deputy Head Teaching & Learning, Heads of KS |
| Review date: | January 2013 |
| Links with other policies: | |

Links to procedures & notes filed elsewhere: Performance Management, all staff.

Reviewed and approved at Curriculum Committee on 4/2/11

Aims

Newick House School aims to help all pupils achieve their fullest potential through the provision of a broad, balanced, relevant and inclusive curriculum, incorporating a wide programme of out of school experiences. We encourage pupils to develop respect for themselves, each other, their community and the environment. We want pupils to feel confident in making a contribution to their own social groups and to wider society. These aims are fostered through the positive values placed on all achievement and a commitment to equality of opportunity. Our main aim is to prepare pupils for as much independence as possible both during their schooling and later, in adult life.

Race and Equalities Statement

Newick House School pledges itself to be a place where pupils and adults of all races, religions, gender, abilities, sexuality and social circumstances will find security and respect for themselves, their families, other people and their traditions. It is our policy to ensure that each member of the school community: respects others and is respected, Can take part in the full life of the school, achieves his/her potential, and has the opportunity to exercise choice.

What is Homework ?

Examopls

Homework tasks are also set on the school's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for some classes and there is a rolling programme of training for this to involve all classes (as of Jan 2011).

Homework is valued by staff at Newick House School because:

- It reinforces concepts, ideas and work habits learned at school
- It gives pupils a chance to practice skills they are acquiring in a different setting
- It offers pupils a chance to develop independent work habits.
- It encourages pupils to seek information from alternative sources to those available at school.
- It promotes learning by involving the adults at home.

Homework can support pupils' progress in many ways. It can include a variety of tasks, and may not always be formal pen and paper work. To be used successfully, homework needs the home, school and pupil to work together and to understand the value of the process. Staff try to set homework which is developmentally right for

each child, but is still at the level they can achieve without causing stress. To be worthwhile, the task must be readily understood by the pupil at home, away from the support of school staff. Sometimes, the most relevant homework is suggested by the pupil. It may be finishing a piece of class work or investigating a topic related to the lesson.

Use of the Virtual Learning Environment for e-learning at home can also introduce a flexible approach to learning at home. It can have a range of activities and an interactive element where pupils get feedback from each other and staff on the work they produce

Our policy is to match the homework set to the pupil's needs and maturity. This means that pupils in the same class may have very different homework demands. Staff will aim to supply all children with appropriate work or activities to do at home. We also respect the wishes of some parents and professionals who have advised us that setting formal homework would be unhelpful for their child. It is not the school's intention for homework to be a cause of anxiety for parents or their children. If this becomes the case, we request that parents liaise with the staff involved to discuss the way forward.

Teaching staff (and speech and language therapists) may make suggestions for activities that can be done regularly at home to support the stage of learning each child has reached. Sometimes these suggestions are written as targets or are discussed at Parents' Evenings or during Annual Reviews. For younger children these activities might include playing board games to help improve the concept of turn taking. For older pupils it may be a suggestion to help the child towards greater independence.

Primary Department Homework

In KS1 and KS2 homework tends to be informal, often aimed at reinforcing skills learned at school. These include revising social learning or language acquisition work done in school. Pupils could be asked to share a book with a parent.

KS2 pupils take home a reading book regularly. Occasionally older primary pupils may be asked to do more formal work at home. This could be learning words, practising number facts or tables, drawing or finding out about a topic.

There is regular communication between school and home using the home - school diary. Parents and carers can use this as a basis for discussion of the school day and to communicate any concerns regarding homework to the teacher.

Secondary Department Homework

In KS3 homework is set more regularly for most pupils in a variety of subjects. Most pupils are expected to be more independent and manage without a home school book although some in ISIS groups may still require this support. Most English groups are set spellings to learn every week in Key Stage 3 and/or additional tasks may be set such as reading, or formal written work.

The expectations on pupils to manage homework and return it on time increase as they get older. Homework for pupils in Key Stage 4 will include coursework or revision for external examinations, such as Entry Level Certificates, Youth Award

Scheme and GCSE. Active test papers cannot, of course be sent home. Pupils who attend other schools on the integration programme may have homework set by those establishments.

Key Stage 4 pupils may also have tasks to undertake out of school, which relate to the leavers' programme. An example could be for parents to practise the use of public transport with their child to a college or a work experience placement. Older pupils are provided with a school diary to help them organise activities and work.

Pupils at Newick House have a wide variety of needs and aptitudes. We feel it is therefore unhelpful to stipulate a certain number of hours of homework that should be completed each week.

Staff undertake to mark returned homework as soon as possible and give helpful feedback to pupils. Staff will often not set further homework if earlier items remain outstanding.

Any pupil who is absent from school for a significant period of time (ie ill health, parental holiday) can be given homework to cover aspects of school work that will have been missed. Work to be done at home will also be given to a pupil who is excluded from school.

Newick House School sees homework as one method we can use to help pupils achieve our school aim of independence both during schooling and into adult life.

Parents and carers are very welcome to discuss any issue connected with homework with members of staff at any time.