

Trinity school home work policy.

This advice is for parents, carers and staff who are considering what type of homework best matches the needs of the pupils.

Before prescribing or requesting homework the following key points should be considered.

1. The work must have a **clear purpose**. Homework should be used not for learning which is new, but to enhance work undertaken in the classroom. **Home work is not given to simply occupy the students' time but to let pupils practice what they have learned.**

2. The tasks must be **doable** as they help students feel positive about themselves as learners. Homework that cannot be done without significant help is not good homework and can be de-motivating to pupils.

3. Whenever possible, homework should be **customized** to promote pupil ownership. Pupils are only to undertake work which is relevant **and realistic**.

At Trinity School homework will come in many forms and parents are encouraged to discuss with us what they can do at home. For example:

- The home –school diary will have on each page a section in which the school staff write the pupil's priority learning target and how parents and carers can help at home. This will change as the term progresses.
- The Trinity school web site www.trinityschooldagenahm.org.uk will have links to other web sites where learning activities can be worked on.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to read to their children each day. A short session to promote picture/word recognition and good communication will be time well spent.
- Each term the school will send home to families a short curriculum overview of work that is planned for that term. They can use this information to support decisions about what to watch on TV, what outings to undertake or what games, toys and books to buy.
- The home intervention service will train parents about how to use visual schedules and structure in the home. This is a significant part of our homework policy and is offered to families as they join the school.

- Our Speech and Language therapists are keen to share with you techniques and strategies which can be used in the home to reinforce and promote communication skills.
- The governors of the school recognize that there are times when families may need to take holidays in term time .This is especially true for families who have children who become distressed and anxious when faced with the crowds and noise associated with busy holiday periods. These trips, if they are agreed by the Headteacher, are conditional upon families supporting the children to make a scrap book or diary of their trip which in turn can be used in school as a focus for further communication work. Photographs and souvenirs are always a good means by which speaking, listening, reading and writing can be promoted.
- The school organizes a wide range of extended day activities, including after school, Saturday morning and holiday clubs. Attendance at these clubs extends our work and offers additional time for teaching and learning.
- Where appropriate our teachers can offer additional tasks such as worksheets to be undertaken at home. This work must be within the pupil's current level of attainment and reinforce skills already acquired but not yet mastered. Parents should remember that this work must be returned to the school for marking or monitoring.
- Where appropriate pupils who have a reading book are allowed to take it home each evening to share with their families.

Finally, parents and families should take every opportunity to promote the pupil's independent living skills. The chance to practice self care, travel competence and domestic activities such as personal hygiene routines and making simple snacks provide pupils with the chance of achieving some independent living skills. We believe that it is this kind of homework that will have a significant and long lasting impact upon the lives of the children and for this reason is the most valuable and worthwhile of all.