**Craigowl**

**Primary School**

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**Home Learning Policy**

 **Lead: Asha McLorinan**

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**Rationale**Homework is a very important part of any child's education and can add much to their development. Children benefit greatly from the joint support of parents and teachers in the learning process. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.We are very aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outwith school.**Aims**- To offer guidance on the purpose of homework.- To set out the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in either the issue or completion and submission of homework on a regular basis.**Purpose**The purposes of homework are:- to give additional practice in reading- to consolidate work done in class- to provide opportunities to investigate IDL work- to encourage interest in current affairs and develop general knowledge- to provide opportunities for parental co-operation and support- to create channels for home/school dialogue**Roles and Responsibilities*Parents***Parents have a fundamental role in the development of their child's learning and the role they play should be recognised. Parents should be aware that their co-operation and support, with respect to assisting and supervising their child's homework, is very much appreciated by all concerned in school.Parents should:- discuss the work with their child- insist that any work is completed to as high a standard as possible- ensure that homework is submitted on time- contact the school should they have concerns regarding any aspect of homework- show interest and praise good efforts***Pupils***Children throughout the school will receive homework, either oral or written. In the early years pupils will require their parents to assist in creating a homework habit and also in supporting them in the completion of homework.Pupils have the responsibility to:- make sure they understand the tasks required- ask the teacher to clarify anything they do not understand- ensure they complete homework to a high standard- ensure homework is returned on time***Teachers***All class teachers have responsibilities within the homework policy.Teachers should:- promote the value of homework and the homework habit- ensure that the homework issued is meaningful, achievable and understood by all the children- praise effort- adhere to the sanctions and consequences for homework not completed or returned- inform leadership team of persistent failure to complete/return homework***Leadership Team***

The leadership team should:- ensure all staff, parents and pupils understand and promote the homework policy- monitor and evaluate practice- review the aims and procedures of the policy- take account of parents' wishes**Types of homework*Primary 1-2***Homework should be set on a regular basis and will initially take the form of oral work, reading and phonic sounds practice. This will consist of:- letter and number formation practice- phonic work- maths activities-Read Write Inc activities- any other tasks deemed relevant and necessary by the class teacher***Primary 3-7***Homework will be set on a weekly basis. It will be issued on a Friday and returned the following Thursday. This encourages children to plan their homework and also takes account of pupil's activities outwith school. Homework will consist of:- reading- spelling- Learn-ItsOccasionally homework may be issued such as completing additional mathematics or personal projects which have been covered in class.**Differentiation**At all times it will be necessary to take account of the different needs, learning styles and abilities of the pupils to ensure that homework is appropriate and relevant. As in class, differentiation can be achieved in a number of ways, including:- giving tasks according to class groupings- setting tasks which can be tackled in different ways- allowing differing expectation levels for completed work- asking for different support levels from parents.**Pupils with additional support needs**Where a child has additional support needs it may be necessary to adapt a task so that they may be able to contribute in a positive and meaningful way. When setting homework for pupils who have specific needs, we may need to refer to the ABLe Plan for that pupil.**Pupils with different ethnicity**As we aim to reflect the multi-ethnicity of our society and ensure that the education we offer fosters positive attitudes to all people and still promotes the individuality of all the children we must acknowledge this when planning and creating homework. When setting any homework tasks we must ensure that we take account of children with different ethnicity and create homework which is not offensive to individuals, families or groups.**Failure to complete/return homework**As indicated earlier in the policy it is the teacher's responsibility to adhere to the sanctions and consequences when pupils fail to return completed homework or fail to return any homework at all. The nature and extent of any sanctions will be in line with the behaviour management procedures in the school and will be at the professional judgement of the teacher. In all cases the teacher should record the name of any pupils who fail in their responsibility to return completed homework on time and make contact where necessary with the appropriate parent or guardian using the homework reminder letter. Where a pupil fails to return homework frequently then Leadership team should be notified. If a child is unable to complete a homework task on time then it is the responsibility of the parent to contact the school, preferably in writing, explaining the problem that they are experiencing, if appropriate, and an estimated submission date in advance of the original submission date.