



# Dhoon School, Maughold, Isle of Man



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## **DHOON SCHOOL POLICY FOR HOME LEARNING (HOMEWORK)**

### **Introduction**

At Dhoon School we believe that homework is an essential part of a child's school life and forms a crucial link between home and school. Homework is an extension of school and is used to support what happens in the classroom. We use 'Learning Logs' from Reception to Year 6, along with other additional key skills, again from Reception to Year 6.

Children demonstrate their understanding of key learning questions from the teaching and learning in class. These recording methods will vary in form, according to the focus in class, the age of the child and individual needs. The amount of time children spend completing their learning logs will vary.

All pupils have the right to equal access to home learning opportunities, as they do in all areas of education. We do, however, recognise that each home situation is different and that parental involvement will vary as a result. Learning Logs and other homework activities are designed to be completed by children with parental support, and at the level of the individual learner. It is important that parents get as involved as they can, which will result in a quality discussion about their child's learning experiences, and also through reading regularly with their children.

### **Policy aims**

Through the use of Learning Logs and homework at Dhoon School we aim:

- To provide opportunities for direct involvement of parents in their child's learning
- To make children aware that school is not the only place for learning
- To increase children's motivation to learn
- To develop independence and self sufficiency in working and learning
- To support and follow up learning which has taken place in the classroom
- To provide children with opportunities to practice and develop skills
- To assist children's progress and enhance achievement and attainment
- To prepare pupils for the next stage of their education (eg. High School)

### **Learning Logs**

Learning Logs are provided for each child each year, from Year two onwards. These are A4 sized, plain page books which we hope will last the entire school year. Children are given key

learning objectives from their work in class. The task is for children to represent their understanding of the learning objective in **any** way they can. This allows children to be as creative as they like and enables the use of thinking skills taught in school, e.g. mind maps. Children can add items to their logs, e.g. newspaper clippings, pictures from magazines, information from the internet, etc.

In order to support children in exploring the learning question, teachers provide examples of ways to represent their learning and spend time discussing possible ideas with the class. Other children's learning logs may be shown to classes as good examples. Children are given **two weekends and the interim week** to complete their learning log. Learning log expectations will be clear and manageable in the allotted time. Learning logs have comment sheets which should be completed by the child, their parent and a teacher with quality responses to help us determine future activities and learning.

### **Other homework activities**

Learning Logs are only part of what we do at Dhoon School. We place an importance on practicing and consolidating the core skills of maths and literacy as well. This may take the form of learning worksheets, focusing on things such as time tables, maths skills, comprehension or spelling activities. Homeworks will alternate on the following pattern:

1. Learning Log homework
2. Maths skills /maths practice homework
3. Literacy skills / literacy practice homework

### **Guidance on Time and Activities for each Year Group**

#### **Foundation Stage (Reception) and Y1**

*Reading-* We recommend that the children share a book with an adult on a daily basis, plus phonics and keywords.

On the weeks that the children in Year Two onwards receive a Learning Log Homework, children in Reception and Year 1 will be given a low-key 'talking homework' which will alternate in focus on the following pattern:

1. Theme based
2. Maths based
3. Literacy based

#### **Year 2 and Year 3 -**

*Learning log-* These should take up to an hour to complete. These will be age appropriate, and based on their learning in school or key events throughout the year.

*Other academic learning activities -* times tables, maths skills and spelling activities to be provided on alternate weeks to the learning logs.

*Reading -* We continue to recommend that the children share a book with an adult on a daily basis.

## **Year 4 and Year 5**

*Learning log*- These should take an hour to complete, although the children will have the option to spend longer on their learning log. These will be age appropriate, and based on their learning in school, either as consolidation or as preparation for future work.

*Other academic learning activities* - spellings, times tables, maths and comprehension activities will be provided during the alternate learning log weeks

*Reading* - We continue to recommend that the children share a book or other text type e.g. newspaper etc with an adult on a daily basis.

## **Year 6**

*Learning log* - The children will be encouraged to manage their time effectively, and create their own timetable for completing their expected tasks. Learning Log activities should take just over an hour to complete, although the children will have the option to spend longer on their learning log. These will be age appropriate to year 6, and based on their learning in school, as consolidation or revision alongside some activities preparing them for future learning.

*Other academic learning activities* - spellings, times tables, maths and comprehension activities will be provided during the alternate learning log weeks

*Reading* - We continue to recommend that the children share a book or other text type e.g. newspaper etc with an adult on a daily basis.

## **Educational Needs**

Children will be set learning log questions in accordance with recommendations for their year group, unless otherwise stated in their Individual Education Plan. Additional homework to support children with a particular difficulty may also be provided, where appropriate or at parental request.

Pupils who are very able or have particular talents may be given additional tasks designed to challenge and extend them, meeting their individual needs.

## **Use of Computers**

Many children have access to computers at home and may wish to use ICT to support them in preparing or presenting their homework. Children will not get additional credit for using ICT to support homework but we encourage its use where available.

## **Expectations**

Homework is set fortnightly, on a Friday, with children having the first weekend, the following week and the following weekend to complete it. Homework is always due the second Monday after it has been set.

Homework for all pupils in the school is given out on the same day and is to be returned by the same day.

It is important that homeworks do not become onerous or take up too much of a child's leisure time. If parents find that children are spending far more than the recommended times or that tasks are too difficult for their child/ren, they must discuss this with the class teacher as quickly as possible. Equally, teachers would value hearing about activities done at home which were greatly enjoyed or helped children to achieve success.