

## HOMEWORK

At Kinma we aim to develop the whole child. This requires the development of thinking skills, problem solving strategies, skills for collaboration and co-operation, communication skills as well as the development of basic skills such as maths, reading and writing. Through providing children opportunities to learn through real-life experiences they approach tasks in the same way we all do everyday – through talking to others, thinking it through, having a go, making a choice, sharing the load, taking responsibility etc.

Homework by its very nature represents a very different style of education to that which Kinma represents. Homework requires children to work alone, collaboration is no longer possible. Homework, by necessity, is generally structured to allow for simple assessment, that is marking, which results in basic knowledge questions, rather than activities requiring thought, problem solving strategies or decision making skills. Furthermore many of the resources in our environment at Kinma, both indoor and outdoor, are not always available at home, which changes the way children work.

It is also essential for children to have the time to be involved in activities which result in learning experiences outside of school. The time children spend playing with friends contributes to their social development. Training with a local sports team develops co-ordination, co-operation, communication and social skills, as well as math concepts. Practising a musical instrument not only develops musical skills, but also patience and recognition for the need to persevere and practice to develop a talent.

**Day to day tasks, such as washing up and hanging out the washing, all contribute enormously to the development of responsibility, independence and self-confidence.**

As a result students (generally only the older group) receive only occasional small amounts of homework. This may be because the student has not managed their time well during the day and needs to complete a task at home, or the student and teacher have agreed on a little extra work in a particular area, for example handwriting.

Occasionally children will also request homework, usually if friends and/or siblings from other schools have homework.

Students in the older group will often have term projects which they can choose to work on at home. This is determined by the students and is structured to build a strong connection between home and school, by closely reflecting the practices at Kinma. Students are asked need to work with family members as they would with other students at school. This allows parents and siblings to better understand what happens each day and provides students with the opportunity to take skills developed within one setting into another. Such projects are also designed to allow students to incorporate their interests and learning style.