

# Should Golden Time Be Held on Friday Afternoons in Primary Schools?

In many primary schools, Golden Time is used as a reward for good behaviour and steady effort throughout the week. It usually takes place on a Friday afternoon and gives children the chance to play, socialise, and enjoy fun activities. Although many teachers and pupils appreciate this tradition, some people question whether it is the best use of learning time. This text will explain both the advantages and disadvantages of having Golden Time on a Friday afternoon.

Supporters of Golden Time, including the National Association of Parents (NAP), believe that it helps children develop important social skills, as they can work together, take turns, and communicate during play. Moreover, they argue that it encourages children to behave well all week because they understand that their actions affect how much Golden Time they receive. In addition, some teachers feel that children are often tired by Friday; therefore, allowing them to choose enjoyable activities can help them relax and finish the week in a positive way. Furthermore, Golden Time may strengthen relationships between pupils and staff because it creates a calmer atmosphere where everyone can interact more informally.

However, headteachers argue that holding Golden Time on a Friday afternoon can reduce valuable teaching time, especially when the curriculum is already very demanding. They also point out that some children, even when they try hard, sometimes lose Golden Time for small behavioural mistakes; consequently, this can make them feel upset or less motivated. Additionally, some educators question whether using play as a reward is appropriate, as it might make children feel that learning is a punishment. Moreover, they suggest that Golden Time can be difficult to organise safely, particularly when children choose different activities that each require supervision.

Overall, while there are some concerns to think about, Golden Time is generally a positive part of school life when it is used responsibly and with clear boundaries. When organised carefully, it can support learning, encourage good behaviour, and improve children's well-being. Therefore, instead of removing Golden Time, it is more sensible for schools to ensure it is structured fairly, monitored closely, and used purposefully so that every child can benefit from the experience.