

Ripley Endowed CE Primary School Homework Policy

INTRODUCTION

Homework in our school takes various forms depending on the age of the pupils. For example, for younger children it may be practising reading and the learning of spellings and times tables to support their learning in school, while for upper KS2 it may be additional work to prepare them for the demands of Secondary School homework.

We are also mindful that children have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. Our policy and practice therefore recognises the need for the children to have time to be children!

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

As a child progresses through primary school, homework has some or all of the following purposes depending on the age of the child and format of the homework.

- It consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding learnt in school;
- It extends school learning, for example through additional reading;
- It provides opportunities for children to use out of school resources (e.g. books and Information Technology) found in the home or other places such as libraries;
- It fosters the partnership between the school and parents in achieving the aims of the school for the benefit of the child;
- It helps develop the confidence and self discipline the child needs to study on their own.

AIMS and RESPONSIBILITIES

Mindful of the above purposes of homework, our aims in setting homework are to:-

- give children further practice of the skills and concepts learnt during the school day;
- extend and support the learning experiences in school via reinforcement and revision;
- enable parents to share in their child's education in partnership with the school;
- provide progression towards independence and individual responsibility in Upper KS2 to prepare the children for transfer to secondary school;
- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;

The school, parents and pupils each have responsibilities regarding Homework. These are as follows:

- **School** is responsible for setting homework appropriate to the child's age;
- **Parents** are responsible for providing their child with time, space, encouragement and support with any homework they have including hearing their child read, assisting in the learning of tables, spellings and KIRFs and ensuring that children hand in homework on time and completed to a good standard;
- **Pupils** are responsible for undertaking any homework set and remembering to take home and return to school all books and equipment needed to

undertake their homework. Pupils are also responsible for handing in their homework on time and for completing it to a good standard.

TYPE AND QUANTITY OF HOMEWORK

The main focus of homework for children in primary school is on literacy and numeracy, with other work added to the homework programme on occasions as part of the ongoing classwork and on a regular basis for older KS2 children.

English

Previous government guidelines have stated the expectation on parents to hear their child read frequently at home to practice the skills of reading taught in school during daily English Lessons and school supports this ethos. A Home- School record diary is provided for parents to enable them to communicate to school any comments about their child's reading practice. These record diaries are checked by the teacher.

Maths

Throughout the school the children are asked to learn number bond patterns/times tables as appropriate for the age of the children. In Key Stage 1 and KS2 formal Maths homework is set regularly to support this.

Other Homework for Older Children

To prepare the children for the demands of secondary school homework, children in years 5 and 6 are given homework more frequently, such as English, Math's, research relating to history, geography and/or science topics. Parents will be notified of what homework is to be set, and are reminded of our homework expectations regularly.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

These will generally be:

- To bring completed homework into school on the due day, as instructed by the class teacher. If work set was preparation for a coming lesson therefore, children may find this subsequent lesson difficult to complete if they have not done the preliminary task.
- To encourage parental support in building up a homework routine and training their child to do their homework with care and to pack completed work in their bags for the following day or agreed date of return.
- Where appropriate, to ask a child who has not completed a piece of homework that feeds into a subsequent lesson to complete it during the following morning's break time.
- Parents will be contacted by the class teacher and subsequently Head Teacher if homework is persistently not done.
- If there is a valid reason, (e.g. family crisis or illness) for a child being unable to do their homework, parents are asked to inform the class teacher at the first available opportunity, either in writing or verbally.

KS1

Reception

Sharing books
Phonics practice
Maths KIRFs

Years 1 and 2

Daily reading practice
Daily spelling practice
My Maths/Maths worksheet
Optional topic homework

Lower KS2

Years 3 and 4

Daily reading practice
Maths KIRFs
Key words
Times tables
My Maths
Mental maths

Upper KS2

Years 5 and 6

Daily reading practice
Maths KIRFs
Key words
Times tables
My Maths
Mental Maths
Literacy tasks

When setting homework teachers will be mindful of individual childrens' needs and capabilities.

Where the homework involves learning spellings and/or tables the checking of this will take the form of a test set on a specific day of the week or another activity.

Parents will be notified at the beginning of each term which day which test will be administered (if one is routinely administered) in order that they can support the child in their homework by ensuring the homework learning task is completed by the day of the test. Homework tasks set will generally practise skills the children have met during recent lesson activities.

HOMEWORK SUPPORT FACILITIES

The school's open-door policy allows all staff to be made aware of any issues that may be significant to any child's ability to complete his or her homework.

HOMEWORK FEEDBACK

We recognise that pupils benefit from feedback on their homework as soon as

possible. Much of the homework, particularly in KS1 and Lower KS2, may not be formal paper exercises requiring formal marking. Therefore, much of the feedback may be verbal from the teacher to the child; the format and timing of the feedback depending on the nature of the homework and when it is assessed by the teacher. With the older children, teachers will check that homework has been completed, and, depending on the task, children may 'class mark' or 'self mark' their work under the direction of the teacher or teaching assistant. (Teachers do not always have time in the school day to mark individual children's homework) This may be followed by general feedback to the class.

We recognise and will reward the children for their efforts in homework tasks in accordance with our school rewards system

ABSENCES

Children who miss lessons due to being absent from school or being withdrawn from lessons to attend peripatetic instrument tuition may be given as homework the work they have missed, if appropriate. Where children are absent for longer due to medical reasons, school may supply work to cover these periods, The school reserves the right to make the decision as to what work is appropriate in individual situations.

MONITORING

Class teachers are responsible for the day to day monitoring of homework set and any comments from parents. The Key Stage Leaders are responsible for the general monitoring of homework provision within each Key Stage.

POLICY REVIEW

Approved by staff and governors –

Reviewed and revised – November 2015

Next scheduled review – November 2017