

Rainow Primary School

Caring, Learning, Achieving.

Homework policy

Members of staff responsible:

Date policy approved:

Date to be reviewed:

Headteacher

Spring 2023

Spring 2026

Introduction

This policy is intended as a framework for staff, parents and governors of the school. In outlining a policy for the setting of homework, the aim is to work towards uniformity and progression from Reception to Year 6.

We believe that there is an advantage in children spending regular periods of time, initially quite short, on different learning activities devised by the school as part of a homework programme which supports the work done in class. Homework is an opportunity to practise and reinforce skills learned in school, share learning with parents, develop reading skills, undertake research and have time to extend and deepen knowledge and understanding across all areas of the curriculum. Homework reinforces our school philosophy that:

Plenty of Purposeful Practice Makes Permanent.

Homework activities need not, and should not, get in the way of other activities which children may do after school – such as sport, music and clubs of all kinds. We therefore define homework as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Aims and Objectives

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account.
- Ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupil.
- Extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision.
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.
- Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own and prepare them for the requirements of secondary transfer and later life.
- Provide purposeful tasks which are related to their current or prior teaching and learning, experiences.
- Ensure all pupils, regardless of background, are able to access and achieve success through our homework programme.

Our Homework Programme

The purposes of homework changes as children get older. In the Reception class and Key Stage 1, short activities of different kinds – simple games, phonics and number facts, and, of course, reading together – provide an important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

As children grow older, homework provides an opportunity to develop the skills of independent learning, and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not be long, to study on their own. Homework does not always mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Particularly in the case of younger children, it is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which can be very brief, which is most valuable in promoting and encouraging children's learning.

Early Years Foundation Stage / Reception Class (approx. 1 hr. per week)

- Daily reading
- Phonics or number practice

Year 1 (approx. 1 hr. per week)

- Reading a suitably challenging text (a minimum of 4 x per week and for at least 10 mins per read)
- English activity
- Maths activity

Year 2 (approx. 1 hr. per week)

- Reading a suitably challenging text (a minimum of 4 x per week and for at least 10 mins per read)
- English activity
- Maths activity

Years 3 and 4 (approx. 1.5 hr. per week)

- Reading a suitably challenging text (a minimum of 4 x per week and for at least 10 mins per read)
- English activity
- Maths activity

Year 5 and 6 (approx. 2 hrs. per week)

- Reading a suitably challenging text (a minimum of 4 x per week and for at least 10 mins per read)
- English activity
- Maths activity
- Additional revision activities (Year 6)

On occasion there may be more topic-related, practical or investigative tasks set.

The Role of Parents and Carers in supporting pupils

Parents / carers play a vital part in supporting pupils working at home. It is important that they:

- Provide a reasonable, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework – alone or, more often for younger children, together with an adult.
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.
- Sign or make comment on their child's homework book, reading diary or virtual learning platform to ensure that they are satisfied with their child's efforts.

The school views the pupils' learning as a partnership – the child, the parent and the school. It is important that children are offered guidance and support when completing homework and have a good working environment. A regular dialogue between home and school can be carried out through the use of the children's reading record books, homework books and their class digital learning platform (Rec: Tapestry, Y1 – Y3: Class Dojo, Y4 - Y6: SeeSaw) via which both teachers and parents can record comments. At the start of each academic year, the teacher will send the expectations and guidelines for homework for that year group.

If there are circumstances which make a child's ability to complete homework difficult e.g. lack of time, space, materials, IT, we will support families as far as we can to ensure that all children are given equal opportunity to complete their homework.

We do not expect the children to work longer than the approved time limit providing they have worked hard on their set tasks. If your child is taking longer than the recommended time, please stop and make a note in the homework book to that effect. Where a child is regularly exceeding these time guidelines please contact the school to discuss this. We want the children to enjoy their homework (if at all possible!).

Respecting homework

All homework should be carefully respected and returned to school in good condition. Children should take responsibility for the care of their books. The child should re-cover any books which are damaged or contain graffiti.

Homework Books

The provision, style and use of homework books will be at the discretion of each individual teacher and will vary throughout the school. Your child will be informed at the beginning of each year of the system to be implemented.

Incomplete homework

We fully appreciate that many children and their families occasionally have some very busy evenings and it may be impossible to complete the homework set. We expect a note to be sent to school, physical or electronic, indicating the reason for failure to complete the homework. The homework must then be completed at a later date. However, pupils are usually given ample time to complete homework. Parents are asked to encourage their children to manage the balance between homework and other activities.