



RAVENSDALE JUNIOR SCHOOL

**Homework Policy
September 2022**

Approved

Dated

Review date

HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

A homework programme is intended to help children and young people;

- develop good independent learning habits and skills,
- reinforce learning in school, promote dialogue between parents / carers and pupils,
- give opportunities for parents/carers to have an insight into what their child is learning and provides opportunities to take part in their children's education.

Effective and appropriate homework tasks serve to reinforce children's learning and provide a good dialogue between children, parents and school. The purpose of homework is to:

- Develop an effective partnership and dialogue between the school and parents and pursue the aims of the school
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in reading, writing and maths.
- Use resources (of all kinds) at home
- Extend school learning, for example through additional reading and hands on practical activities at home
- Encourage pupils to develop the confidence, independence, and self-discipline they will need, as they get older, to study on their own

We would like to encourage parental engagement and interest in their child's learning. Children's lives are enriched in families that 'do things together'. The best (and cheapest!) way you can help is to show an interest in what your child enjoys, achieves and what they find difficult, while giving plenty of positive, loving encouragement.

You can help your child by:

- Listening to them when they get home from school and talk about their day and show an interest in their learning.
- Reading to them, even as they get older, and listening to them read to you
- Encourage them to join in activities and clubs in and out of school (like Brownies, Cubs, Sports etc.)
- Joining in with some of the family events at school shows how much you value school. After a hard day's work, primary age children should spend their time in the evening being with friends and family, and perhaps taking part in one of the many activities organised for young people beyond school e.g. Brownies, Cubs, Sports, Music and Dance Clubs etc."
- Supporting and helping them with tasks given, whilst encouraging independence and perseverance.

School Practice

Homework tasks are set each week by the class teacher. These are put in the child's home learning / reading diary or in their homework books and will link to the subject / topic being learnt. Pupils are expected to complete a maths or English task weekly, read daily, learn spellings and complete a theme/topic based activity.

Pupils have two homework books that are handed in fortnightly and rotated. The demands of homework are managed by the year group team to ensure work is balanced and purposeful. The expectations of presentation and handwriting are the same as in lessons at school.

As children get older, the main purpose increasingly becomes providing opportunities for them to develop the skill of independent learning. Thus, by Year 6 the home learning programme should have a regular weekly schedule and cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content – ensuring a smooth transition to secondary school. This approach should be supported by co-ordination between secondary schools and their feeder primary schools. The home school diary is monitored by the class teacher or classroom TA.

Reading

All children use a learning / reading diary to record their reading. This needs to be signed by an adult each time they listen to their child read. Children at Ravensdale are encouraged to read daily (10-20 minutes), at first to an adult and later privately. Pupils will receive rewards for reading at home. These are given by the class teacher.

English

English tasks are set by the year group team and may include, but are not limited to: grammar activities, writing activities in a variety of genres, investigations, research, practical activities and reports on places visited. The purpose of English homework is to increase and consolidate pupils' skills, share work with parents and improve independence and skills.

Maths

Maths task will be set for pupils, including but not limited to: number tasks, problem solving activities, mental maths skills, investigations, practical and active learning. These will all be linked to the topic areas being covered in class. The difficulty of these will gradually increase as children move through the school. Times tables will be set to be learnt each week, to increase the pupils rapid recall of the given number facts.

Topic / Theme

Each week pupils will be asked to complete a task in line with a foundation subject area. This might include research, art work, project work, investigations, trips or visits, reading and writing and practical activities. The topic work may also link to the English topic being taught.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 3 and 4: 1.5 hours a week (for English or maths on alternate weeks and for weekly assignments in other subjects). Spellings, tables and reading practice is in addition to this but included in 1.5 hours.

Year 5: 2 hours a week (a regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and maths but also ranging widely over the curriculum).

Year 6: 30 minutes a day (a regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and maths but also ranging widely over the curriculum).

The precise amount of time allocated to home learning will be much less important than the quality of the tasks. These are planned as part of Ravensdale's schemes of work for different areas of the curriculum, particularly literacy and maths.

Feedback

Feedback to pupils is very important and this may be given through class discussion, tests or individual teacher comments on written assignments. The latter is very time-consuming and this should be taken into account when setting tasks. Other strategies will be employed, such as asking pupils to review their work in small groups. Feedback from parents is also useful and regular dialogue with parents is encouraged through the home learning diary in which both teachers and parents record their comments.



Homework on a page 2022-23

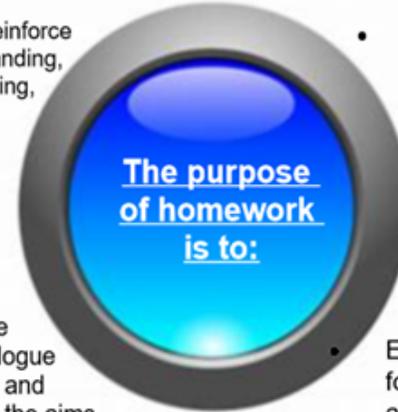
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Develop good independent learning habits and skills

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