



## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Rauceby School's expectations concerning homework are laid down in the home-school agreement, which sets out to clarify what is expected of pupils, parents and teachers, in relation to homework.
- 1.2 At Rauceby School, homework is used to reinforce and consolidate concepts taught in lessons particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- 1.3 Homework helps to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school.
- 1.4 Homework helps to encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

### **2. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS**

- 2.1 The purpose of homework at Rauceby School changes as children progress through the school. Short activities of different kinds, for example, simple games, learning spellings and number facts and reading together, provide a very important opportunity for children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practice key skills in a supportive and secure environment.
- 2.2. The aim of Rauceby School's homework policy is to:
  - develop a consistent approach throughout the school to homework activities;
  - achieve progression towards independence and a pupil's responsibility for their own learning;
  - make sure the needs of the individual pupils are taken into account;
  - ensure that parents and carers have a clear understanding about the school's expectations in relation to themselves and their children;

- extend and support the learning experience through reinforcement and revision, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
  - give opportunities for the parents, pupils and the school to work in partnership;
  - provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
  - encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline for study of their own as they mature;
  - prepare children in year 6 for secondary transfer.
- 2.3 Co-operation between school and home is an essential part of a child's learning process and parents and carers have a vital role in supporting, encouraging and celebrating a child's progress. Such co-operation is vital to the success of this school policy.
- 2.4 For homework to be really effective, parents and carers need to be involved some of the time. It is important that there is a balance of tasks so that the planning and feedback is manageable by the teacher and completion achievable by the pupils. It is important, therefore that there is some differentiation over the homework set to take account of the children's range of ability.
- 2.5 Children of all ages are expected to read every night at home. Parents are also asked to try and create an atmosphere at home which helps develop value in reading.
- 2.6 Apart from the daily reading activity, other tasks are set so that there is time for all pupils to complete the task. This may be over a whole week, within the school week or over a weekend. It is part of the purpose of homework to enable children to plan their time so that they are able to pursue outside interests at the same time as completing the work set.
- 2.7 For children in the Reception class, any home activities will be used to develop a partnership with parents and carers, actively involving them in children's learning. Reading will form the basis of any home-school activities.
- 2.8 Children in Years 1 and 2 will receive homework at least twice a week. This homework will largely consist of reading daily (ten minutes), spellings for testing (ten minutes), times tables for testing (ten minutes), and a number task (ten minutes). In total, homework should take approximately one hour per week.
- 2.9 In KS2, literacy and numeracy will still be the main focus for homework although

science and other subjects will be added to the programme as children move up the school.

- 2.10 Children in lower KS2 (Years 3 and 4) will receive homework at least three times a week, lasting 20-30 minutes. This homework will include reading daily (fifteen minutes), spelling for testing once a week (ten minutes), times tables for testing once a week (ten minutes) number work and a literacy task (twenty minutes each), and topic work as required. In total, homework should take approximately one and a half hours a week.
- 2.11 Children in upper KS2 (Years 5 and 6) will receive homework every day lasting approximately 30 minutes. This homework will include reading daily (twenty minutes), spelling for testing (fifteen minutes), times tables for testing (fifteen minutes), number work and a literacy task (twenty minutes each), and topic work as required. In total, homework should take approximately two and a half hours per week.
- 2.12 The teachers in each year group will work together to develop a regular pattern for homework and to ensure children and parents are aware of the homework routine.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION**

- 3.1 Homework will be marked in accordance with the school marking policy and returned to the children as soon as possible.
- 3.2 It is important that feedback is given to pupils as quickly as possible. This can be given in a number of ways, including immediately by parents or carers, by discussion in the classroom, through tests such as tables or spellings, through individual comment from the teacher on written assignments, by pupils reviewing the work done in small groups and through presentations of homework in class.
- 3.3 Homework should match the ability of the children. Setting appropriate homework which does not demand too much or too little of children and their parents means close liaison between class teachers, the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDSCO) and parents. Older children should receive homework involving research activities, reading in preparation for lessons, preparing oral presentations as well as more traditional written exercises.
- 3.4 Parents and carers will be encouraged to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework, away from distractions. Parents will also offer encouragement and support to children when they require it and will support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning. Parents should also praise their children when they have completed homework and should be actively involved in the homework of younger children in particular.

- 3.5 All children will be expected to complete the set homework, although teachers will sensitively identify any particular problems at home which may cause a child difficulties in completing the set work.
- 3.6 Under certain circumstances children will, when there are problems at home and when it is practical, be given the opportunity to complete their homework at school, during a lunch or break time.
- 3.7 The homework diary acts as a useful form of communication between home and school. In addition, as with all school activity, parents are invited to discuss any queries with the class teacher, the headteacher, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Parents may offer feedback on how the children carried out activities, whether it was too hard/too easy/ interesting and whether time allocation was appropriate or whether the activity was too short or too long.

#### **4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

- 4.1 Homework and in KS2 homework diaries will be monitored by the SLT; teaching staff and parents will also be involved in assessing the effectiveness of homework in achieving the school's aims.
- 4.2 This policy will be monitored regularly by governors of the school's Curriculum and Standards Committee to ensure that it reflect any changes in legislation and will be evaluated in the light of any parental concerns.
- 4.3 The school (and governors of the Curriculum and Standards Committee) will review this policy annually to assess its implementation and effectiveness. This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Reviewed by: C&S Committee (Jan 2016)

Approved by: C&S Committee

Next review Jan 2017 (C&S Committee)