

# RIDGEWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HOMework POLICY

### **1. Homework - a Definition**

Homework is defined as *any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers or during planned study support.*

### **2. The Purpose of Homework**

We regard the purpose of homework as being to:

- develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school. Homework will therefore be an important feature of the school's Home-School Agreement
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- use resources for learning, of all kinds, at home
- extend school learning, for example through additional reading
- 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 High school

### **3. The Aims of our Homework Policy**

Through this policy we aim to:

- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership and to enjoy learning experiences
- ensure parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupil
- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- extend and support children's learning experiences through reinforcement and revision
- encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs and at Year 6, to prepare children for transfer to High School

#### **4. The Nature of Homework**

The nature of homework will change as children move through the school.

For children in Key Stage 1, developing a partnership with parents or carers and involving them actively in children's learning is a key objective.

Short activities of different kinds - simple games, learning spellings and number facts and reading together - provide a very 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.

At Key stage 2, homework provides an opportunity for pupils to develop the skills of independent learning, and this will 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. By the time children reach Year 6, their homework programme will cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content, with a regular weekly schedule. This approach will benefit their learning and also ensure that, in relation to homework as much as to other aspects, their transition to Year 7 /High school is as smooth as possible.

Homework will include a range of tasks including:

- finding out information
- reading in preparation for lessons
- preparing oral presentations
- written assignments

#### **5. The Time to be spent on Homework**

The amount of time and the focus of the homework set by the school will reflect the broad guidance issued by Government:

YEAR GROUP	AMOUNT	ACTIVITIES
Years 1 and 2	10 mins per day 1 hour per week	Reading, spelling, other literacy work and number work
Years 3 and 4	15 mins per day 1.5 hours per week	Literacy and numeracy as for Years 1 and 2 and with occasional assignments In other subjects
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes a day 3 hours per week	A regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging more widely over the curriculum

*The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of tasks set and the way they are planned to support learning.*

Each Junior child will have a homework book which should be brought into school and taken home daily. This will contain details of the homework to be undertaken and the deadline date. Parents are asked to check and sign this book weekly. ***Homework is also available on the V.L.E.***

Homework will not, in general, be used to finish off work started in class.

We believe a regular pattern is important, particularly for literacy and numeracy. We will endeavour to establish a familiar routine - particularly for older children, e.g. setting tables to learn on Tuesdays and spellings on Wednesdays.

***Teachers will encourage children to complete homework on time. Where children are not doing homework regularly then parents will be informed either at Parents' Evening or through the Homework Book.***

Further details will be circulated to parents at the beginning **of each term as part of the Curriculum letter.**

## **6. Meeting the Needs of all children**

Setting the right type and amount of homework for children with Special Educational Needs or on the Gifted and Talented register will need careful consideration by the class teacher and co-ordination with both the SENCO/AbCo and parents. The purposes of homework outlined in this policy should apply equally to pupils with all needs.

SEN children may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class, it is important that they should do as much in common with other children as possible. Homework tasks for SEN children should:

- have a very clear focus and time-guideline
- give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed
- help develop social as well as other skills where necessary
- be varied - and not purely written assignments
- be manageable for teachers

Gifted and Talented children will benefit from open ended tasks and opportunities to explore curriculum areas of interest. Parents can also be involved in providing additional opportunities for these children.

## **7. The Role of Parents and Carers in Supporting Pupils with Homework Activities**

Ridgeway recognises that parents and carers have a key role to play in supporting pupils homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older. For much of their homework, particularly with younger children, parents and carers will be encouraged as far as possible to become actively involved in joint homework activities. Through the home-school agreement and other measures, parents will be encouraged to:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, 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
- as far as possible to become actively involved in joint homework activities with their child
- encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework

## **8. Feedback**

The school recognises the importance of providing prompt and accurate feedback to pupils, parents and carers on how well homework tasks have been tackled and the knowledge, skills and understanding that are being developed. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback and these will vary according to the age of the pupil.

- When homework is done together with adults, children will often receive immediate feedback in the form of praise and encouragement.
- When children work on their own, it is important that they build on it and/or receive appropriate feedback as soon as possible. This may be through class discussion, or through tests or through individual comments from their teacher.

***Providing individual feedback is demanding on teachers' time. Teachers will acknowledge all homework that is handed in on time and endeavour to acknowledge any that is handed in late. The acknowledgement will either be a tick in the book or with it being used as part of a class activity. The range of tasks set for homework will take this into account. Pupils will sometimes review their work in small groups.***

***More details of both the range and timetables of homework as well as the nature of the feedback that will be provided for each year group will be circulated to parents at the beginning of each term.***

## **9. The Planning and Co-ordination of Homework**

The planning and co-ordination of homework for each phase will be the responsibility of the Phase Leaders. The setting of homework will be the responsibility of the class teachers.

## **10. Informing and Consulting Parents and Carers about the Homework Policy**

The school will use the curriculum information pack to inform parents and carers about the school's homework policy and secure their involvement. Parents' evenings will be used to promote this partnership and obtain feedback.

## **11. Other Out of School Activities**

We do not believe that homework should get in the way of pupils' participation in other enriching activities such as sports, hobbies and visits and we will work with parents/carers as far as is practically possible to ensure that timescales are reasonable and manageable.

## **12. Reviewing the Policy**

The Headteacher will meet with staff at least every three years, to review and update the homework policy. The review will be presented to the Governing Body's Staffing and Curriculum Committee for agreement.

*See also the following policies:*

*SEN*

*More Able*

*Equal Opportunities*

*Inclusion*

*Home/School Agreement*

*Assessment*

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