



# Homework Policy

Date approved by Leadership Team	Date of Next Review
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Autumn Term 2021

## **Homework Policy**

The Governors and staff of Redbridge Primary school believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. We believe it encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom as well as promoting independent learning thus encouraging the child to take great responsibility for their personal progress. Homework allows parents, carers and the school, to work in partnership for the benefit of their child.

The following homework policy has been written during Autumn Term 2016 in consultation with teaching staff, children, parents and governors (through our school PTA). We recognise that there are many differing views amongst our school community in terms of the quantity and format of homework. This policy is our attempt to provide some clarity to parents in terms of our expectations and guiding principles, whilst also acknowledging the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

### **The aims and objectives of homework**

- To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in relation to children's learning;
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner, including research skills;
- To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences beyond the classroom;
- To foster a love of reading;
- To consolidate, deepen understanding and extend learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- To help children develop good work habits for the future.
- To challenge the pupils and develop resilience

### **Guiding principles**

- Homework is not compulsory and it is for parents to decide whether they want their child to do the homework set.
- Homework should reinforce or follow up work completed in class, or encourage discussion/research to prepare the children for a new topic.
- Children should be clear how to complete the work set.
- Sufficient time will be given for homework to be completed.
- Reading should take place daily.
- The school recommends that homework is completed and returned to the class teacher.
- Homework will be given weekly to ensure consistency across the year group.

## **Responsibilities**

*Article 14: Schools must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.*

It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and returned on time. Teachers will offer opportunities through the week to provide support for children to help them with any homework that is confusing or difficult for children to complete. Where homework is frequently missing or not completed, late or of poor quality, the child's parents or carers will be contacted by the class teacher. Class teachers will co-operate closely in their Key Stages to ensure that similar content and expectations between classes is in place.

The Associate Headteacher will:

- Promote the school homework policy to staff, parents and pupils
- Monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy

The teacher will:

- Set regular homework activities which could include both practical and written tasks
- Provide adequate and appropriate feedback to pupils through praise and encouragement, marking or testing (as appropriate)
- Set high expectation of pupils in completing homework
- Acknowledge written homework through marking, a short comment or signature, depending on the task.

Parents and Carers should support their children by:

- Providing a suitable place where your child can do their home learning, somewhere reasonably peaceful, with supervision if appropriate
- Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the school in explaining how it can help raise attainment
- Providing activities that support the activities set by the teacher
- Ensure and check that tasks are completed on time and to a suitable standard
- Being actively involved in joint homework activities with the children
- Contact the children's class teacher if they have any questions or contact the Associate Headteacher if they have queries of a general nature regarding homework. If parents wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy or the way it is implemented, parent should contact the governing body
- Encouraging your child to also play and enjoy time outside of school

*Article 14: Schools must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.*

Pupils should:

- Do their best to complete task as instructed
- Ask for help as appropriate
- Gain increased motivation and enjoyment through home learning

### **Reading and spelling**

We would hope that children read daily (alongside the schedule that follows) and that reading for pleasure is valued at all times and is not just confined to the total time spent completing homework. This would include fostering early reading skills, where appropriate. We want to promote a love of reading in every child. We encourage parents and carers to discuss their children's books and ask questions about them to ensure that there is understanding of their book as well as accurate reading. We would also hope that the learning of age appropriate spellings, as outlined in the national curriculum, happens frequently outside of school and may be supplemented by spelling lists being sent home.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the homework policy is efficiently and effectively implanted within their class. This will be monitored by the member of ULT in charge of each phase in order to ensure homework is contributing to overall pupil learning and progress.

### **Inclusion**

All children will have access to homework or that is relevant to their current stage of learning.

### **Equal Opportunities**

All children are provided with equal access to homework. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or home background.

### **Parental activities to support learning outside of school**

While it is important that your child feels supported to complete homework, we believe that parents providing experiences that generate interest, wonder and enjoyment are extremely valuable. Visits to museums, galleries, libraries, places of interest or natural beauty and other outdoor activities can help generate curiosity and love for learning that transfers back into classroom lessons.

### **Homework Schedules**

Homework is given on a regular basis across the school following the schedule below. From time to time, homework may vary in response to a particular activity such as an educational visit. Homework content may be set as a written piece of homework or may include reading, games and activities to reinforce English, Math's or other skills. For older children homework may include completing work set, finding out information, preparing a presentation, designing and/or making something, trying out a simple scientific experiment and solving problems.

### **Family Learning Projects**

During holiday times teachers will often set practical projects for children. Families will be given an extra week opportunity to complete the project either before after the holiday period. This usually involves an aspect of research with some practical outcome. An example of this is making a Tudor model boat or a shoe box scene of the Great Fire of London. We

hope that the finished product will be very much a collaboration between the whole family with children encouraged to complete the task with adults offering ideas and suggestions. We do not expect adults to complete the task for their child and are able to quickly identify when this has happened.

### **Marking of Homework**

Homework will be acknowledged by teachers, either through marking correct answers, a short comment, verbal feedback or a signature, depending on the task. Homework is not marked in depth each week.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Guideline Amount</b>	<b>Tasks/Activities/Subject Areas: Our expectations are that:</b>
<b>EYFS</b>	n/a	Parents can support their children by reading stories to them every day. Formal homework is not given in the foundation stage. We recognise that the majority of learning takes place in the home and, as a result, offer regular guidance and suggestions for parents on next steps in learning. We are always available to talk to parents about how to further support their child. We also offer family learning projects for parents to follow in the holidays. Children in nursery and reception are issued with a Learning Journal. This is not a homework book but a special place to capture all the learning that takes place at home through photographs, notes and children's drawings.
<b>Year 1</b>	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily for pleasure. Children will complete an English or Math's task/game/activity every week.
<b>Year 2</b>	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily for pleasure. Children will complete an English or Math's task/game/activity every week, which may occasionally include a SATs-style question to consolidate the topic. Occasionally they may complete a relevant themed task, such as a project based on their current cross-curricular theme.
<b>Year 3</b>	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete an English or Math's task/game/activity every week. Family learning projects, linked to class themes, will be set for completion over a half term.
<b>Year 4</b>	1 hour weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete an English or Math's task/game/activity every week. Family learning projects, linked to class themes, will be set for completion over a half term.
<b>Year 5</b>	1 hour 15 minutes weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete an English or Maths task/game/activity every week. Family learning projects, linked to class themes, will be set for completion over a half term.
<b>Year 6</b>	1 hour 30 mins weekly	Children will read daily. Children will complete an English or Maths task/game/activity every week. Family learning projects, linked to class themes, will be set for completion over a half term.  During the spring term a SATS revision programme will begin and the school may offer additional booster classes and extra homework to children. Again this is optional.

## Appendix A1: Sample Weekly Homework Sheet

# Year 5 Homework



**Date:**

**Due:** Tuesday 4th October 2017

### **Reading**

Make sure you read **every night** and ask your parents to sign each night to say that they have heard you read. You should have 5 records per week.

### **Maths or English**

We have been working on addition this week in class. Please complete the worksheet / problem-solving task attached along with the challenge sheet. Please also practice your x times tables.

### **Spelling**

Here are your spellings for the week. Please write at least 8 of them in sentences which can demonstrate that you know the meaning of the word.


### **Talk Homework**

Our assembly theme this week is xxxx. Please spend some time discussing the theme with your child. Some possible questions might include:

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### **Y5 Homework Expectations**

In Year 5, we expect children to read daily. Children will complete an English or a Maths task/game/activity every week, along with spellings and times tables. Family learning projects, linked to class themes, will be set for completion over a half term.