

RAVENSCLOTE JUNIOR SCHOOL

HOMWORK POLICY

2023 – 2025



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20 th January 2023		17 th January 2025	
Signed	Amy Wells Headteacher	Signed	Emily Gibson Chair of Governors



RAVENSCLOTE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Homework Policy

WHAT IS HOMEWORK? – A Definition

“Homework is that work which is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum; which contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised or controlled by a teacher; and which represents an extension of the learning activities provided and organised in accordance with the objectives of the school curriculum.”

(Education Observed 4 Homework – A Report by HM Inspectors)

OBJECTIVES OF HOMEWORK

1. To practise and reinforce skills learned in the classroom.
2. To consolidate and extend work begun in the classroom.
3. To develop further good work habits, independent study skills and enable children to embark further on personal research.
4. To develop perseverance and a self-disciplined, self-motivated attitude to study which encourages children to develop an increasing sense of responsibility for their own learning.
5. To involve parents/carers in children’s work. The support and involvement of parents/carers in monitoring their children’s homework is an effective way of keeping in touch with children’s progress.

ROLE OF TEACHERS

Since homework will generally build upon the ongoing curriculum work, there should be consistency in the assignments set to children in each of the classes in a year group. Teachers should ensure:

1. That homework continues and extends classroom activities.
2. That the task is clearly understood and success is possible.
3. That the children have the skills to undertake the tasks given.
4. That the task can be completed in the given time without undue stress.
5. That wherever possible the task matches the children’s ability.
6. That if research is required, children have access to appropriate resources.
7. That the work is marked promptly in line with the school’s Live Marking policy, therefore only constructive verbal feedback will be provided to the children and dojos should be awarded to celebrate their effort and participation. (1 dojo will be awarded for completing the Engage task, 2 dojos are awarded for the Engage and Enrich tasks and 3 dojos for the Engage, Enrich and Excel tasks).
8. That any difficulties the children experience are discussed and sorted out the next day.
9. That homework is satisfying and confidence building – not stressful.
10. That consideration is given to children’s other commitments – a degree of flexibility may be required.

The following activities were seen by Ravenscote staff to be appropriate for homework:

1. Extension and consolidation work
2. Personal research
3. Learning assignments e.g. spellings, times tables
4. Completion of unfinished work
5. Reading practice/reading for pleasure
6. Creative writing, personal writing or writing to extend vocabulary
7. Handwriting practice
8. Planning work – for topics, DT, Science etc.



In the event of homework not being completed teachers will, in the first instance, discuss the problem with the child and attempt to resolve the difficulties. It may be that the task is too difficult or that home circumstances have prevented the child's completion of the task. In these circumstances, the child may need additional support. If homework is a continual problem, teachers may wish to telephone parents or contact them using the letters in Appendix 1; this would usually happen after two weeks of incomplete homework within a half term – though an individual child's circumstances may mean this is varied. Children will not be kept in at break time or lunchtime to complete missed homework but rather support will be put in place for the family to achieve this work at home.

Although it is recognised that homework can have a beneficial effect upon children's achievements, it is important that it does not unreasonably intrude into family life. Therefore, reasonable time frames will be given for homework; homework will not be set over half term or school holidays and children who are ill will not be expected to attempt homework during their absence from school.

ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS

Parents/carers are able to take a constructive and supportive part in their children's learning through a positive role in their children's homework. Parents should ensure:

1. That the environment is quiet and conducive to study.
2. That they take an interest in the homework set.
3. That children receive appropriate advice and support.
4. That teachers are contacted if children consistently have problems with homework.
5. That homework is brought home regularly.
6. That they contact their child's teacher in the event of children being unable to complete homework for any reason. This communication should take place following the usual communication procedures – via info@ravenscote.surrey.sch.uk – and parents/carers should not use Google Classroom or Class Dojo as a means of contacting teachers regarding homework.
7. That they know the frequency and duration of homework assignments.
8. That the homework is not creating stress for their children.
9. That tasks do not take an unreasonable length of time to complete – if they do they should inform the class teacher.
10. That they engage with school staff if a teacher has to contact them about their child not completing homework, and engaging with any support strategies put in place.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Subject	Frequency	Set	Due	Programme
English	Fortnightly	Wednesday	Monday	Google classroom
Maths	Fortnightly	Wednesday	Monday	Google classroom
Spelling	Weekly	Wednesday	Monday	Spelling Shed
Times Tables	Weekly	Wednesday	Monday	TT Rockstars
Reading	Years 3 – 5: 3x a week Year 6: 5x a week	Monday	Monday	n/a

Atom Learning may be used in conjunction with Google Classroom as a way of setting homework. Atom Learning is a programme which adapts the questions' level of difficulty based on the performance of the child throughout the task. Atom learning also provides video guidance which have been created by them to aid the children in accessing the task.

Though there is no expectation that children complete work in addition to the homework that has been set, Atom Learning, Spelling Shed and TT Rockstars all offer the functionality of children completing additional tasks. This is at the parents' discretion.



ONLINE SAFETY

Homework at Ravenscote involves using three online programmes: Google Classroom, TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed. This homework policy should be read in conjunction with *Ravenscote Junior School Online Safety Policy* in order to safeguard the wellbeing of the children online.

APPENDIX 1

To be sent to parents via Scholar Pack if homework is not completed on two occasions in a half term

Dear

On a number of occasions recently has not completed homework which has been set. He/she may have told you that I have already discussed the situation with him/her.

If there are any particular reasons why is experiencing difficulty, perhaps you could let me know as it would be helpful if you would discuss the situation with him/her and ensure that future assignments are completed and returned by the due date.

Yours sincerely

Class Teacher

