

Rawcliffe Bridge Primary School
Homework Policy

The school has high expectations of the children at Rawcliffe Bridge Primary School and feel that after a day's work there has to be a time for relaxation. However, in line with the government legislation, we have a useful and productive programme of homework.

Government Guidelines suggest the following allocation of time for homework.

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Years 1 and 2 | 1 hour per week (approximately 10 minutes per day) |
| Years 3 and 4 | 1.5 hours per week (approximately 15 minutes per day) |
| Years 5 and 6 | 30 minutes per day |

At Rawcliffe Bridge Primary School we plan homework that will reinforce and extend what has been taught in school. We do not send work home to be finished, when the work should have been finished in school, believing that it is not the way to promote self-discipline within a child. We do not give the children work which involves skills they have not been taught.

Children are encouraged to read, learn spelling lists, times tables and practise handwriting. Children are asked to research a topic or to design something for a future lesson. Older children are given literacy and/or numeracy work to reinforce what has been taught in school.

Children need a quiet area in which to do their homework and, except when reading, should be sitting at a table. Good work cannot be done if they are distracted by the TV, DVDs, Play Stations or X boxes. Help may be given with their homework if they ask, but parents should not do it for them. Parents will find that maths, in particular, is now taught using different methods to those the parents were taught. Parents must not confuse the children by teaching them the old method. If the child cannot do the homework then it should be sent back to school with a note outlining the difficulties, so that the teacher can help the child.

Children need pencils, paper, coloured pencils, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener and for older children a geometry set in order to complete homework. Children also benefit from having a dictionary at home. Homework will not be accepted if it is done on a scrappy piece of paper and children must not use ball point pens or felt tips to write their homework. Teachers make an effort to set appropriate homework and to then mark the homework. Homework which shows no pride taken by the child will not be marked. The same level of presentation that is expected at school will be expected in homework and children are well aware of how their work should be presented.

Children benefit from an evening routine so that homework is done at a similar time each evening. After school they will want to relax and a parent will be busy making the evening meal. Perhaps after their evening meal the children could sit with an adult to support them in their homework. It is good for dads to be involved in homework too, especially for boys who like to see their dads reading and writing and know it is something that men do!

Children then need to pack into their reading packs everything they need for the following day and perhaps place it by the door through which they leave the next day. This way they will know what is in their pack and remember to bring everything to school.

Children benefit from use of a computer and access to the internet at home. If they have not got this facility then they can use the school's ICT suite on Thursdays between 3:30 and 4:30pm. This needs to be booked with Miss Knight.

There are many activities that may already take place at home which are extremely beneficial but not always classed as homework.

- Talking. Encourage your child to talk about the day's events, days out and/or TV programmes. Sing songs, recite nursery rhymes, recite times tables, poems, and tongue twisters.
- Reading. Talk about books, listen to your child read, read to your child, visit the library and let your child see you reading for pleasure. Share a book with your child where you read one page and then the child reads a page. Talk about what might happen next or how a character was feeling. Read a bedtime story to the children taking turns to sit on different beds each evening.
- Writing. Stories, poetry, play scripts for puppet shows, letters, notes, diaries, shopping lists, postcards, thank you letters, information text on a subject which they enjoy e.g. animal habitats or history of cars. Write the instructions for your favourite hobby e.g. How to ride a Quad Bike.
- Research. Find information for school topics and personal hobbies. Use libraries and the Internet.
- Art and Craft. Designing, selecting materials, following instructions, experimenting with different paints, clay, papier-mâché.
- Cooking. Measuring ingredients and reading instructions. Setting the table for the evening meal. Clearing the pots after the evening meal.
- Shopping. Lists in alphabetical order. Checking prices, reading labels, working out the cost and change. Finding out where food comes from and finding the place on a map.
- Games. Taking turns, playing fairly, learning to lose gracefully, reading rules, helping a younger sibling, practising mental arithmetic, devising tactics.
- Clubs. Children need to develop socially and culturally and activities such as swimming, football, Scouts and playing a musical instrument help a great deal.

Homework for Term time holidays

If your child has an authorised holiday during term time they are expected to do some homework while on holiday. Children in Years 2,3,4,5 and 6 are expected to keep a diary of their holiday which will include photos, tickets, pamphlets etc as illustrations to their work. They are expected to talk about their holiday to their class once back in school. Children in younger classes are expected to talk to their classes and show something which they may have bought or made on their holidays. All children on holiday are asked to write a postcard and send it to school. They particularly like to see their card displayed when it arrives in school. Work will not be set for the children as they will have missed the lessons where this work will have been taught and will not be able to do the work well.

We hope to promote a positive approach to homework, where children enjoy it and are challenged by it in preparation for more formalised homework when they transfer to secondary school.

Signed



Date November 2009

Date of Review November 2011

Signed:

Date: June 2007

Date of review: June 2009