



RAMILLIES HALL SCHOOL AND NURSERY

HOMEWORK POLICY

This policy intends to provide a clear framework for staff, parents and governors and makes reference to the homework procedures that operate in school. For the purposes of this framework homework will be defined as different learning activities devised by the school which supports work done in class and which pupils are asked to complete outside lesson time, independently or with parents or carers.

Policy Aims:

- To ensure a consistency of approach throughout school.
- To ensure the individual learning needs of pupils are taken into account.
- To establish how homework will be organised and continue the quality of learning experience offered to pupils.
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.
- To ensure pupils progress towards independence and individual responsibility, growing in confidence and self-discipline.

Purpose:

Why is homework important?

Homework provides opportunities for a pupil to extend and support what has been learnt in the classroom, it broadens the context of learning and provides enrichment and extension.

Pupils can become increasingly independent as learners and develop better study habits; skills vital for future learning opportunities.

Homework can provide parents/carers and pupils with the opportunity to work together to develop the learning experience.

Procedures

If homework is a challenge?

Homework can become a challenge at the end of a busy school day.

At Ramillies there is an opportunity to complete home work each day, with the exception of Friday, during prep time. This time is available from 4.10pm until 5.50pm. The member of staff on duty will be able to offer assistance to pupils when required.

There are two further opportunities in the school week; on a Tuesday and Thursday lunch times, homework club is ran by the Head of Senior School. This is held in Columbus.

There may be an occasion when a pupil may require a homework break. Permission for this will be given only by the Headteacher in consideration of individual circumstances and in consultation with staff and parents and will be time limited.

Consistency of approach and responsibility of teachers

Teachers need to ensure that the purpose of homework assignments is clear:

- Pupils should leave the classroom with no confusion about what they are being asked to do or how to do it.
- Homework must be structured in a way pupils can accomplish it¹:
 - “Clear English” instructions visually reinforced where necessary.
 - Structured support in the form of clear examples or methods showing what is required should be used.
 - Use of templates or writing schemes to be used where necessary.
 - Methods of feedback must be consistent with the school’s marking and assessment policy.

Individual Learning Needs

Each pupil is provided with a home work diary in the Junior School and a planner to record homework on a daily basis in the Senior School. Teachers often need to provide assistance to the pupil to effectively and accurately record information in their planner.

Teachers need to ensure that the individual learning needs of pupils are considered:

- Pupils with additional learning needs should have homework set at an appropriate level and differentiated in the same manner as in the classroom setting.
- Where teachers have concerns about an individual pupil e.g. repeated non completion of tasks or persistent lateness of hand in, these concerns will be referred to the SENCo and/or Headteacher. The amount of time allocated for the completion of homework may be adjusted in consideration of any additional learning requirements of the pupil. The decision for making such adjustments must be discussed with the SENCo and agreed with the Headteacher in the first instance.

Homework Schedule

School recognises the importance of a consistent home work schedule² and that the purpose of homework changes as our pupils get older, gradually developing the habit of devoting periods of time to independent study. Each term the school will produce a home work schedule for all year groups. This schedule will be sent to parents by the School Office and it will include both the day that home work is set and the day by which completed work

¹ Marzano and Pickering (2007) highlight a related characteristic of effective homework: It “should be structured in a way the students can accomplish it with relatively high success rates.”

² Paulu (1998) suggests that the use of a consistent homework schedule “helps students remember to do assignments. A consistent schedule can also help busy parents remember when their children’s assignments are due.”

should be returned. This will enable parents to encourage their child to meet school deadlines.

School appreciates that children and their families may at times struggle, due to other commitments to complete work for a set date. In the first instance this should be discussed with the subject or class teacher. Where homework is not completed, pupils will be asked to complete any outstanding work at lunchtime.

Role of parents/carers/guardians

School views pupils learning as a partnership – the child, the parent and the school. It is important that pupils are offered guidance and support when completing homework and a good working environment. Homework is a child's work carried out at home and all concepts included in homework will have been taught in school beforehand. If a pupil struggles to complete homework set a note in the homework diary would be helpful. It is not advisable for the parent to complete homework on behalf of the child.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to ensure that the policy directly contributes to the quality of teaching and learning the provision of homework will be regularly monitored. Samples of planners will be reviewed by SLT throughout the year, e.g. during learning walks/lesson observations. In addition, the scrutiny of homework samples will form part of the marking scrutiny process. Parents will also be given opportunities to share their views with teachers at parent meetings and on other occasions as appropriate.

Pupil's Absent from School

If a pupil is absent for more than 3 consecutive days, then work for each subject missed, must be sent home. Teachers will ensure that the instructions for work being sent home are clearly explained and typed on to a cover sheet. The cover sheet will include the topic heading and a detailed description of what is expected. Teachers will scan in the required documents and email them to study@ramillieshall.co.uk so that they can be distributed to parents.