

# Riverside Primary School

*Where everyday matters and every one counts*



## Homework Policy

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# Introduction

Homework is defined as any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers.'

Research indicates parental support and attitude is the major contributor to children's learning. The loving nature of a stable, supportive home life gives happiness, confidence and a willingness to take the risk of learning something new. Furthermore, where family life prioritises and models life-long learning, children see more meaning to school and wish to succeed whilst there. In other words where families prioritise the steps **after** learning to read, write and count, children continue to improve. Research shows where families stop focusing on learning after the initial years of school, children's progress sharply declines.

Riverside Primary School sees homework as offering an avenue to strengthen this bond between parent and child. Thus, we intend to set homework that complements children's home-life, supplementing the relationship between the school, child and their parents. To this end the time spent on homework should be governed by the following principles.

We wish to be clear that activities which a parent or carer considers as essential to the well-being, or educational and social development, of their children are to be welcomed and encouraged.

Children should be encouraged to take part in activities e.g. Sport, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Guides and other social activities.

In addition, they should remain involved in individual hobbies e.g. computing, library visits, collecting, models, watching sport etc.

Above all we wish to emphasise that the spending of quality time between you and your child is the most important support you can give.

## Responsibilities

At Riverside Primary School, we believe teaching and learning is a partnership between school and home. Working effectively together, gives each child the greatest opportunity to achieve their full potential. Teachers, pupils and parents all hold a responsibility in ensuring homework is meaningful and moves the learning forward.

### Pupils will:

- Read regularly, keeping their reading diaries up to date.
- Listen carefully to homework instructions in class.
- Discuss their homework with their parents or carers.
- Always try to do their homework to the best of their ability.
- Present their homework to a high standard
- Always hand homework in on time.

### Teachers will:

- Set appropriate homework activities.
- Differentiate the task, as appropriate, to fit the needs of the learner
- Provide a time/space in school for homework tasks to be completed if needed
- Value homework as part of the child's whole education.
- Provide clear instructions as to the nature of the task.
- Allow sufficient time for each task to be completed.
- Give appropriate feedback.
- Monitor the completion of homework, liaising with parents where there are any issues.

### Parents/carers will:

- Make it clear that they value home learning and support the school in explaining to their children how it can help them with their learning.

- Annotate their child's work to demonstrate if they have provided support or if the homework was completely unaided
- Provide a peaceful and suitable place in which pupils can undertake home learning.
- Maintain an interest, provide encouragement and praise throughout homework sessions.
- Encourage their child to take pride in their work. Support their child in developing responsibility and independence.
- Liaise with the class teacher should there be any issues around homework

## Equal opportunities:

Riverside Primary School is committed to the provision of homework to all its pupils regardless of gender or disability. Our homework programme aims to take into consideration the diversity of children's faiths, cultures and family backgrounds. Please see the school's Equalities Document and SEND report.

## School Practice:

We would like to encourage parents/carers to become involved in and support their children's homework activities, and this document seeks to clarify the quantity and frequency of homework for each year group in the school.

The amount of work, the depth and independence of study will increase as your child progresses up the school. If at any time, your child is experiencing difficulties with homework, we hope you would approach the class teacher quickly.

In practice, the type and amount of home learning activity will look like this:

Year	Timings	Frequency	Activity
EYFS	5 - 10 mins	5 x week	Reading
	5 mins	5 x week	Word Cards
1 & 2	10	5 x week	Reading
	10	1 x week	Alternate Maths / English activity
3 & 4	15 mins	5 x week	Reading
	5 mins	5 x week	Spelling Practise
	5 mins	5 x week	Times Table Rockstars
	20 - 30 mins	1 x week	Alternate Maths / English activity
5 & 6	20 mins	5 x week	Reading
	5 mins	5 x week	Spelling Practise
	30 - 40 mins	1 x week	Alternate Maths / English activity

## Reading

The school will provide you with a book, appropriately matched to your child's current reading ability. Parents/carers are welcome to supplement this with reading materials from home. In addition, parents are encouraged to read to their child from more challenging books. The school will recognise this as homework and encourage this to be included in the regular reading activities completed at home.

## Formal Assessments

During the academic year, the school will prepare children for statutory assessments, such as the Year 1 phonics assessment, Years 2 SATs, Year 4 multiplication assessments and Year 6 SATs. During the time leading up to the assessment, the school may provide additional, bespoke revision activities to support the children in accessing and being successful in these tasks.

## Arrangements for feedback on home learning activities

### Feedback

- The completion of spelling activities will be acknowledged and any spelling errors highlighted. Children will receive their spelling score back after their assessment to share with their parents.
- Reading logs will be acknowledged to note that children have completed reading activities during the week.
- Maths and English activities will be marked and corrections provided. Comments on achievement and effort may be written.

## Homework reward system:

- Successfully completed reading homework will be rewarded with two team points each week.
- Successfully completed spelling practise will be rewarded with two team points each week.
- Completed Maths / English activities will be rewarded with two team points each week with a focus being on the effort that the child has placed into the task.
- Longer writing tasks may be rewarded with up to four team points at the discretion of the class teacher
- Occasionally, when an exceptional effort or achievement has been noted, homework may be awarded by a Headteacher's Sticker.

## Arrangements

- Homework will be set and shared each Monday and should be returned the following Monday.
- If children are absent on a Monday when homework is set, they are expected to hand in the previous week's homework and collect the next set of homework when they return. For children who have a longer period of illness an extension may be granted.
- There will be no homework set on the first and last week of term.

## Homework Club

It is expected that homework is completed at home. However, we recognise that for some children and families it may not always be possible for this to happen. Therefore, we run a regular homework club for our children.

A homework club is available for KS2 children every lunchtime where a quiet working environment and adult support is provided.

In KS1, teachers will provide a quiet time during the day to allow children to complete their homework tasks, if needed.

## Homework Sanctions

If a KS2 child does not complete their homework, they will be asked to make up some of their homework during lunchtime. For example, if they have not read five times during the week, they will be asked to complete their reading during lunchtime.

If the teacher identifies that there are continual issues with the completion of homework, they will contact the parent/carer to discuss how to support an improvement in engagement.