

Rasharkin Primary School



Homework Policy

Rationale

Children perform at their best when home and school work together and research has shown that homework can make a valuable contribution to students' progress at school. Evidence points to the fact that students in the highest achieving schools spend more time on learning activities at home than students in other schools (Excellence in Schools 1997). In Rasharkin Primary School we recognise that the educational experience any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Homework is an opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting learning. We also aim to develop children as independent learners and we believe that doing homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework is also an important way for parents to see progression in their child's work and for a teacher to assess learning in a subject area. As children progress through school, the development of good study habits are essential in their educational career, by setting homework we aim to encourage this.

Role of Parents and Carers

Teachers will plan and prepare homework in class, explaining what is required of each child. At home parents and carers can support their child by:

- Providing a peaceful and suitable place in which homework can be carried out
- Supporting the school by showing that homework is valued, referring to a child's homework diary to check all work assigned has been completed
- Encouraging and praising completed homework, providing support in the process if necessary
- Signing all homework and/or the homework diary

Role of Child

As children progress through the school they should become increasingly independent in their homework and are encouraged to:

- Establish good habits of timing and location
- Refer to Homework Diary to check what is to be done and ensure it is returned to the teacher on time
- Complete your own work, to the best of your ability
- If homework is not complete, be prepared to complete it at an alternative time at the teacher's discretion
- Present super homework and earn a star. Five stars equates to a night of homework in that area for P3-7.

Timing and Amount of Homework

Whilst we are committed to the positive role homework can have in raising a child's level of attainment, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and

development. The guidelines below are therefore given as an indication of how much time we expect your child to spend on their homework activities. If your child is regularly taking much longer than the suggested amount of time and is struggling to complete tasks, please call into school to arrange a time to discuss this with the class teacher.

The time a child spends on homework will increase incrementally as they progress through the school, as a rough guideline children should spend no more than thirty minutes on homework a night up to Primary Five, with older children increasing that time to forty-five minutes, though they may be able to complete the tasks in a shorter time. Generally homework is not given over the weekend or school holidays, although teachers may give extra work on occasion, e.g. work that needs to be ‘caught up on’, as a punishment, P6 children who have chosen to sit an entrance test (these children will also need to spend longer on homework during this period, if parents have opted for this).

Teachers may vary homework to suit individual needs and on occasions there may be no homework issued.

Homework can have many different forms and is not always recorded in writing, for example the time spent memorising table facts is essential for progress in maths. Below is a rough guide of what to expect.

Spellings and Tables P2—7

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, spellings and tables will be provided for children to work on. On a Thursday night the entire week’s spellings and tables should be revised. In response to parent feedback we will issue all spelling homework on a Monday and expect to see it on a Thursday.

Reading P1—7

Children will be encouraged to develop independent reading skills with a set reading task. The task may involve children reading certain parts of the story, or responding to the text. However as reading forms the basis of learning in all subject areas we would encourage children to read a book they are enjoying beyond the set reading task, daily.

English or Maths P1—7

A homework usually focusing on one of these areas will be given on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Teachers will try to alternate where possible, e.g. English—Monday night, Maths—Tuesday night. (P1 & 2 will only have reading homework on Tuesday nights.)

Teachers are responsible for monitoring their pupil’s homework. We understand that on occasion books can be forgotten, however if homework is not returned regularly staff may expect children to stay in at lunchtime to complete the tasks and / or speak to parents about this. If the situation continues then parents will be invited into school to discuss the problem.

Feedback will be given promptly and be in line with the school policy on Marking (this may not necessarily be written).