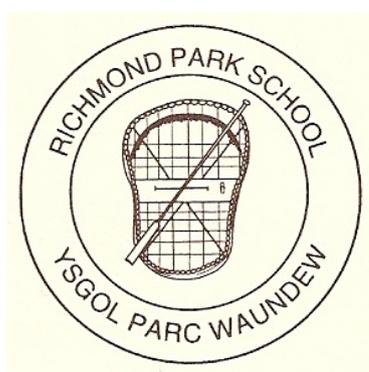


RICHMOND PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ysgol Parc Waundew



HOME LEARNING POLICY

Date of Policy	November 2014
Date to be Reviewed:	November 2018
Approved at Governor's Meeting Dated:	03 11 14
Signed by Chair of Governors:	

We believe homework is a key aspect of learning at Richmond Park. Homework helps children improve important skills. We believe that homework is a valuable opportunity for children to share with their parents/carers things they have been doing at school.

Our Aims:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help to continue to raise standards of attainment and enjoyment of learning.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for the individual pupil.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

Homework will focus on the whole school priorities for that academic year:

- **Fostering a love of reading**
We believe reading is a key aspect of developing a child's learning. We value parents and carers reading with and to their children because it allows them to enjoy texts they might not be able to read alone, therefore improving many key skills which enable a child to access the wider curriculum.
- **Applying numeracy and literacy skills across the curriculum**
Children need to use and apply their writing, reading and numeracy skills across all subjects. Spellings will be taught at school and homework will be focussed on developing skills in a real context so children can make links with their learning e.g. cooking to develop maths skills relating to weight, finding focussed sight words in books/ magazines/ newspapers, etc.
- **Improving key life skills**
Social skills, evaluation skills, problem solving, managing feelings and working collaboratively are just some examples of these key life skills. Developing key life skills improves children's motivation and approach to life and learning. Working together as a team/ sharing/ communicating feelings develops a confident child who has no fear of getting things wrong or having a go! Activities/ games/ helping around the house can develop numeracy and literacy skills but also vital life skills and are fun too!

For example:

- Board games - Playing scrabble is a great way of learning to spell but also teaches turn taking, solving problems, losing! The game 'Articulate' develops children's vocabulary, speaking and listening skills.
- Card games are great for developing mental maths, independence, patience.
- Dominoes are a great way to learn number bonds.

Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy:

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the governors.

Homework Tasks

As well as basic skills homework, which concentrate on Literacy and Numeracy skills, longer term projects or topics may also be set. If further information on the task is necessary your child will receive further written instructions so parents are fully aware of the expectations of the project.

Children will use an A4 homework book to keep their work in good condition and to aid organisation. School will provide these books yearly, however if they become damaged or lost, then new ones can be bought from the school office at cost price.

Long term projects will not be developmentally marked by the class teacher, but will be commented on and shared with the class. Marking of the homework books will be via simple ticks/crosses and/or short comments, especially as more detailed targets and comments are set in the children's school books on a daily basis.

We encourage parents to complete any errors in the children's homework books with their child, but not to do the work for them.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

Homework will be engaging and linked to the children's topic wherever applicable. Homework activities for all classes will allow the children to practice and consolidate skills linked to the text types explored in class.

Times tables practise will be a weekly expectation, with weekly tests in mental maths lessons to monitor progress. Children need to know their times tables by rote up to 10x. Teachers will help them make links between tables and will send home material to support you and your child.

Spellings given to learn for test purposes will no longer be given as research shows children do not retain these spellings in their long term memory. Instead high frequency words which children come in to contact with regularly will be given as lists to focus on for the term. These will be given to pupils based on their literacy stage and not necessarily their age. This means that children in the same class will be working on different levels dependant on their ability. These high frequency word lists will be called the **Spelling Wizard Challenges**. These will be placed on the school website so that you can see all the words in their list order.

Class teachers will carefully monitor the return of homework. The parents of children who do not engage with homework will be invited in to school to discuss ways of supporting their child.

The table included at the end of this policy shows the expected homework for each year group. Teachers may on occasion, send extra homework if they feel it would be beneficial. Class teachers will advise parents about extra work they could do at home if they wish.

The school 'HWB' website will have a page for each class with various and updated extension homework choices, as well as links to various sites which parents may find beneficial. These can be accessed at the discretion and choice of pupils and/or parents/carers.

Children also have their own accounts for Sumdog, Bug Club & J1T/J2E, therefore have access to continuous provision for developing their literacy, numeracy and creative skills.

A 'homework club' will be available after school wherever possible to provide opportunities for all children to access HWB and other online pieces of work.

Equal Opportunities and Additional Needs

Homework activities will be differentiated, where appropriate, to ensure the needs of pupils are best met. Work/ projects produced by children is valued and celebrated through display, discussion, assemblies, etc.

Roles and responsibilities:

Role of the Governing Body	<p>The Governing Body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegated powers and responsibilities to the standards committee and to the Headteacher to oversee the development of this policy • Responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy
Role of the Headteacher	<p>The Headteacher will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote this policy by raising it's status and importance • Ensure that homework is built into teachers planning • Provide supportive guidance for parents • Keep up to date with new developments with regards to homework • Monitor and evaluate this policy
Role of the teachers	<p>Teachers must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate homework into their planning • Set interesting tasks and activities • Set homework appropriate for each child • Explain when, what and how the work is done so that each child clearly understands • Provide opportunities for sharing of homework tasks in class and provide feedback
Role of parents/ carers	<p>Parents/ carers are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the homework set • Read with your child and make a note in the reading record book. • Support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning. • Encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed. • Be actively involved in the homework of your child. • Make the experience pleasurable • Discuss, encourage and praise • Contact the class teacher/ school if you are not sure of some aspect of the homework or your child is experiencing difficulty doing it • Contribute to the school parent questionnaires so the school can monitor the effectiveness
Role of children	<p>Children are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete their homework and hand it in on time • Listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them • Contribute to pupil interviews and pupil questionnaires on homework for the school to monitor and evaluate • Make sure they get feedback for their homework • Complete homework using appropriate writing materials • Have a go at all homework activities

Following an in-depth homework questionnaire for parents / carers and discussion with pupils in September 2014, the homework schedule has been revised to reflect the responses. The key areas were to reduce the weekly recommended timings or include the continuous reading timings within the recommended times, and to avoid weekends for homework completion whenever possible to allow for better quality family time. The full parental response analysis to the homework questionnaire can be found on the school website.

Homework Schedule:

All homework is to be given on a Monday for a Thursday hand-in.

Year Groups	Recommended weekly time	Homework Schedule	Continuous Provision (all classes) in addition to recommended weekly time
Reception	Approximately 15 mins a week	Creative activities related to our topic. Share a story / read with an adult. Learn to sing / recite nursery rhymes and counting songs. Pencil control activities	Reading supported by an adult – 10 minutes a night for 4 nights – comments recorded in reading records. School will provide some reading prompts to aid more in-depth questioning. Parent workshops will run on this focus each term also All homework will be available on the children’s class page through the school’s HWB website. Extension tasks for children to complete at the discretion and choice of the children and/or parents/carers will also be posted on HWB. Occasional topic project work (1 or 2 a year) – 5-6 weeks to complete will be provided as per parents’ request. All children have access to Bug Club (online reading), Sumdog (online numeracy) and JIT/J2E (various online packages).
Years 1 and 2	Approximately 20 mins a week	Alternates each week between Literacy, Numeracy and topic Times tables to be learnt	
Years 3 and 4	Approximately 35 mins per week	Weekly numeracy task and weekly literacy task (varied between topic work, text types, comprehension, etc) Times tables to be learnt.	
Years 5 and 6	Approximately 45 mins a week	Year 5 and 6 will have alternate weeks to allow for a greater spread of homework and more in-depth tasks Week 1: Weekly Numeracy task and weekly topic task Week 2: Weekly literacy task and a weekly topic task Literacy as in other year groups will be varied between topic work, text types, comprehension, etc. Times tables to be learnt.	