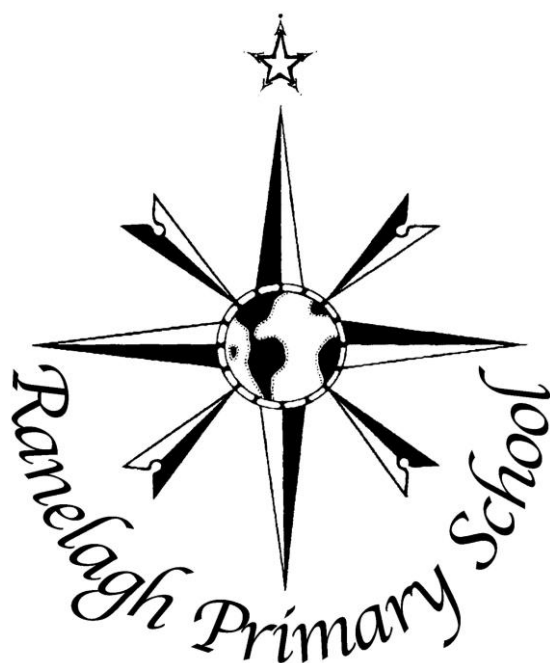


Homework Policy



Background:

At Ranelagh we believe that homework is vital to support pupil progress.

On entry to school, all pupils and parents will sign a pre-school agreement in which roles and responsibilities are outlined. The agreement makes specific reference to pupil completing homework as well as the parental responsibility to both ensure that homework is completed and that necessary help and support is provided at home.

Homework tasks are set for pupils at Ranelagh with the purpose of supporting ongoing progress and achievement for all pupils.

Aims:

We view the purpose of homework as:

- developing an effective and supportive partnership between the school, parents and community in realising the aims of the school;
- consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- exploring resources for learning in the home environment;
- extending and complementing school work and supporting independent study skills, and
- developing pupils' skills of organisation and self-discipline and preparing pupils for the demands of their future studies.

Early Years Foundation Stage Homework (Nursery & Reception):

Homework will be given out once a week and collected the following week. Pupils will be expected to take home a reading book to read as well as one piece of Literacy and one piece of numeracy, all linked to the class curriculum.

Key Stage 1 and 2 Homework

Homework will be set for five activities a week. These will include reading, writing, spelling, maths and topic work. The children will be required to complete all the homework and return it to school as directed by the class teacher.

In addition, the school have set guidelines of how much time should be spent on homework tasks per day. These are as follows:

- Years 1 & 2 – up to 20 mins
- Year 3 – 20 mins
- Year 4 – 25 mins
- Year 5 – 30 mins
- Year 6 – 35 mins

Requirements of the Class Teacher:

- set homework according to the homework timetable;
- plan homework to support the pupils' learning needs;
- plan homework that challenges but does not defeat the pupil;
- differentiate tasks according to the needs of the pupils;
- liaise with key members of staff to set appropriate tasks for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN);
- apply the same high expectations to homework as class work;
- ensure appropriate resources are available if required;
- provide pupils with the opportunity to complete a variety of good quality tasks;
- mark homework regularly in accordance with the school's Marking Policy;

- provide feedback both orally and written for pupils and parents which should be discussed where required;
- encourage children to complete their homework;
- monitor the completion and handing in of homework tasks;
- reward children that complete their homework with a raffle ticket to be put forward for a small prize draw at the end of the half term.
- liaise with parents where necessary.

Children with SEN and/or English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Homework should be set for pupils with SEN or EAL to provide the right of pupils to share fully in the work of the class, whilst considering individual learning needs.

Homework tasks need to be clearly differentiated according to needs. The purpose of homework remains the same for SEN pupils as with any pupil, in that it should support the ongoing learning needs of the child. It is important that resources are provided where appropriate to support children such as the use of graphics and British Sign Language (BSL) for pupils with hearing impairments.

Guidance on appropriate homework for SEN pupils can be sought from the Inclusion Manager.

Recording of Homework

All written homework should be recorded in the pupil's homework book unless work is required for use in a lesson on a separate sheet/record. These books must be kept in excellent condition and treated with respect. It is recommended that parents purchase a school bag in which children can carry their homework.

What will happen if a pupil fails to complete or return Homework?

It is essential that all pupils return homework completed and on time, as it is a reinforcement of the learning in school. All children will be encouraged to complete the homework through the reward system and staff will take into account the needs of the pupils. If the children continuously fail to complete and/or return their homework teachers will follow a progression of steps detailed below:

1. Teacher to discuss with the parents/carers the importance of homework.
2. A letter will be sent home to remind parents of the school's expectations.
3. Refer the pupil to the Phase Leader.
4. First meeting between the Parent, Class Teacher and Phase Leader.
5. Refer the pupil to the Deputy Head Teacher.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To judge the value and effectiveness of the school's homework policy, the Middle Managers (SMT) will:

- regularly monitor all homework books;
- judge the quality and relevance of set tasks;
- judge the quality of presentation;
- examine consistency and parity between year groups and as a phase;
- examine consistency and quality of marking in accordance with the school Marking Policy;
- feedback findings to phase members, as well as
- inform Leadership and Management Team (LMT) of the need of future developments.

To judge the effectiveness of the school's Homework Policy, the Head Teacher and Senior Teachers will monitor and evaluate:

- the homework policy every three years, or more frequently if required
- support to teachers in the implementation of this policy, and
- home school support through the use of the Home/ School Agreement.

School- Based In-service and Parent Support:

The school will offer parents training opportunities throughout the year.

To support the importance of homework, the school will refer to its value in documentation.

The school will be aware of up-to-date educational initiatives concerning homework.

The school will continue to hold high expectations and encourage parents to support their child's learning at home.

A letter will be sent home at the beginning of each term setting out the school's expectations and timetable of work, as part of the curriculum newsletter.

Resourcing:

In the main, the tasks set for homework will not require pupils to use resources that they cannot access from school or home, e.g. pens, paper, pencils and homework books.

When homework tasks do require research skills, teachers will need to provide pupils with the appropriate resource (books from the school library or suggest where information can be found both within the local community and the Internet) for the pupil to complete their work. Every pupil is provided with a homework book specifically for the use of homework. Inside the cover of each pupil's book will be the homework timetable for their class.

On occasions pupils will be expected to complete homework tasks using a resource other than their homework book.