



# Rosh Pinah Primary School

## Homework Policy

Reviewed and Revised: April 2021

Due for ratification by Governing Body: July 2021

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Rosh Pinah we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership. The main purpose of homework is:

- To enable children to practise skills and learning they have already done in school
- To repeat something done in class as a practice exercise
- To ask children to apply their learning to a new context
- To inform parents about work going on in class
- To further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- To take advantage of the home environment and the chance for some 1:1 adult time
- As a source for gathering topic information to share with all the children
- As an opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts
- To foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, we do not want homework to dominate home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves. All children are expected to complete homework on time and are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However, discrete homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

The tasks set will not always need to be handed in. There are other ways in which teachers will respond or give feedback, for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work on to a display or transferring work into class books.

## **Routines and Expectations**

There should be a clear explanation from the teacher of what is expected. Each class teacher will communicate when homework will be given out, when it should be returned and if it is a piece that needs handing in.

The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home. Children will not be given work to do at home that they have not been taught in school unless it is a project/activity which asks them to find out about something new. Parents are not expected to teach new skills.

As far as possible, homework will be related to class topics. This is important as it helps parents to know more about what is going on in class and to support enthusiasm for learning. Parents might, for example, find themselves supporting research of the Greek Olympics, finding out about grandparents' experience of school or measuring objects around the home. This also means that each child can pursue a set task at their own level of ability.

Increasingly teachers are setting online homework. This may be directing children and parents to play a specific game from Interactive Resources.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black pen.

Each child has a homework book /folder and the majority of tasks are kept in there. Work that needs marking and is not feeding into other classwork will be returned to the folder. This should happen each week.

In the few weeks prior to the SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work.

Teachers may occasionally set extra homework for the whole class if they deem it beneficial.

## **Helping your Child with Homework**

As a parent it is important that you show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it. The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. You can show you value your child's homework by:

- Providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support
- Making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- Encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set
- Ensuring work is completed and returned to school on time
- Checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.

## **Absences and School Breaks**

If a child is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will not supply work for these periods – pupils should be well enough to undertake any work supplied. There may be exceptions to this and the classroom teacher will decide whether homework should be set on a case-by-case basis.

If a pupil is absent for a long period of time, e.g. with a broken arm, the teacher and the parents of the pupil will agree on what should be done and how much help should be provided.

It is our policy not to give homework over the holidays and half term breaks or over Jewish festivals. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree extra work would be beneficial.

If you take a holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary.

## **Concerns**

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently, please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance.

## Broad Expectations

Year Group	Homework
Reception	Daily reading, phonics practice, learning key words. At times engaging with a weekly topic related task to be done alongside your child. Hebrew reading.
Years 1 & 2	Daily reading, phonics practice. Weekly spellings. Maths homework every other week. English or Topic homework every other week. Many of the tasks will involve paired work with your child. Hebrew reading
Years 3 & 4	Daily reading, times tables practice. Weekly spellings. Maths homework every other week. English or Topic homework every other week. Hebrew reading.
Year 5	Daily reading, times tables practice. Weekly spellings. Maths homework weekly. English or Topic homework every other week. Occasionally, extended projects running for a few weeks may be set. Hebrew reading.
Years 6	Daily reading, times tables practice. Weekly spellings. Maths and SPAG homework weekly. English or Topic homework every other week. Occasionally, extended projects running for a few weeks may be set. Hebrew reading.