

# Roseberry Primary School

## R P S



## Policy for Homework

**Approved by the Governing Body:**

**October 2014**

**Review Date:**

**September 2017**

## **Roseberry Primary School Homework Policy**

At Roseberry, we value home learning as an essential part of a good education.

### **Aims**

Through this policy we aim to:

- 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 continue to raise standards of attainment.
- To raise the profile of spelling, reading and basic mathematics skills as an integral part of the curriculum.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge.
- Reinforce the work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, carers, 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.
- Promote creative thinking and problem solving.
- Provide the children with the opportunity to express their personal learning styles and make independent choices about how they present their work.
- Set open ended tasks which provide challenge for all pupils.
- 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 and later life.

### **Homework Resource Kit**

Your child will be given a range of resources at the start of the school year to support them with their homework. These include:

- 2 green homework books: one for basic skills and another for creative homework.
- A resource pack containing: a pencil case, colouring pencils, a pencil, pencil sharpener, eraser and ruler. A pen will also be provided for children in Years 4 -6.
- 1 clear folder to hold homework books and other materials.

### **Homework Tasks**

#### **Basic Skills Homework**

At Roseberry, the practice and development of basic skills is the main focus of our homework. Developing competent readers, writers, spellers and mathematicians is our primary aim; children who have the skills needed for later life. All children are expected to practise English and Mathematics basic skills each week through their basic skills homework tasks. These tasks will be stuck into their green basic skills homework book each week (see the table below for more detail). Teachers will respond to children's homework each week in their homework book.

## **Creative Homework**

Developing creativity is an enrichment aspect of homework at Roseberry where children are given the opportunity to respond to topics and express themselves creatively. All children will be given an evolving 'learning challenge project' each half term, which will link to their topic. An overview of the expected coverage from lessons will be provided to support children with their homework challenge project. How this project is completed is **open** - it can take **any form** to reflect the children's ideas and interests. Initially, this will be challenging but as the barriers are removed, children soon realise that there are no limits to what they can accomplish and express themselves in different ways. The children will be asked to submit their project at the end of the half term. Teachers will respond to children's homework each half term in their homework book.

A selection of children will share their creative homework in a celebration assembly each half term as a reward and motivation. Individual classes use their own reward systems for the completion of homework, on time, as an incentive. If your child is absent from school on the date of submission, homework will not be marked as late if it is submitted as soon as your child returns to school.

## **Examples**

This half term the children will be exploring the Seven Modern Wonders of the World. Each week they will visit a different country and find out about the wonder which it is home to.

**Learning Challenge Question:** 'Where is the most wonderful place in the world?'

This place can be one of the seven wonders or another place of your child's choice. We are leaving this task completely open.

## **Weekly Coverage:**

Below are examples of the lesson coverage, which will be built up over the half term. These should be stuck in creative homework books on a weekly basis e.g.

**Week 1:** We will visit China this week and learn about the traditional cultures and customs. The Great Wall of China is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

**Week 2:** This week we will arrive in India, home of the Taj Mahal. We will explore different aspects of the country and its traditions.

**Week 3:** Petra, Jordan, will be our country of focus this week. We will learn about how the city has changed over time.

**Week 4:** This week we will visit Rio in Brazil. We will learn that Christ the Redeemer watches over the city at all times.

**Week 5:** Peru will be our destination this week, visiting Machu Picchu, the Inca site situated on a mountain ridge. The stunning views make this one of the seven wonders.

**Week 6:** It will be a busy week this week, visiting both Italy and Mexico. In Italy, we will explore another of the seven wonders, the enormous Colosseum in Rome, once home to gladiators and performers alike. Next, we will visit Mexico to climb the city of Chichen Itza. We will be worn out after our travels but will have visited so many wonderful places this half term.

### Examples of Homework Completed:

- A poster with photographs and pictures of their favourite place e.g. Grandma's house.
- A 'rated' brochure about the seven modern wonders of the world, showing which the child considers the best and why.
- A setting description about each of the wonders.
- A model of their favourite place e.g. their bedroom.
- Paintings of Seven Wonders of the World, chosen by your child.

### Homework Timetable

Homework Type	Set day	Submission Day
Basic Skills	Every Friday.	Following Wednesday.
Creative	First Friday of each half term.	Last Thursday of the half term.

Homework expectations increase as children progress through school, to ensure children are appropriately challenged and are completing the expected hours at home for each phase.

Type	Early Years Expectation 30-45 minutes per week	Y1/ Y2 Expectation 1 hour per week	Y3/ Y4 Expectation 1.5 hours per week	Y5/Y6 Expectation 30 minutes per day
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Reception</b> - Reading books to be sent home when children are ready. Changed when read. <b>Nursery</b> – books available for children when they choose.	Reading at home expected at least 3 times per week. Reading diaries checked and signed weekly.	Reading at home expected at least 3 times per week. Reading diaries checked and signed weekly.	Reading at home expected at least 3 times per week. Reading diaries checked and signed weekly.
<b>English including Spelling</b>	Action words for reading. Read Write Inc. letter formation task.	Differentiated spelling list sent home each week with a focussed spelling activity e.g. game, sentences.	Differentiated spelling list sent home each week with a focussed spelling activity e.g. game, sentences. A short reading, grammar or writing task e.g. short comprehension may also be sent.	
<b>Maths</b>	Simple maths challenge to complete when children are ready.	Basic skills maths activity including time tables e.g. number bonds task.	Basic skills maths activity including time tables e.g. word problems.	Basic Skills Maths Activity. Times Table Activity.
<b>Creative</b>	A cross-curricular creative challenge question is sent home each half term for			

### **Recommended Time Allocation**

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. The guidelines in the policy respond to the parental feedback received through our Family Forum. If parents/carers have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school.

### **Role of the Class Teacher**

- To provide an explanation of the homework for the child.
- To support parents when necessary and give guidance on how they might assist their child.
- To follow the homework policy for their year group.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the cohort/phase.
- To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To monitor the return of homework for each child.
- To provide feedback for the children and parents/guardians about their homework.

### **Role of the Head teacher, Homework Team and Governing Body**

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

### **Role of Parents/Guardians**

#### **Our aim is that parents/guardians will:**

- Comply with the home school agreement.
- Support the school by valuing and supporting the completion of homework.
- Encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- Offer support, when needed, to their child when completing homework including seeking advice from school if necessary.

### **Independence**

At Roseberry Primary School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with their creative homework. Although we aim to develop independent learners, we believe that children benefit from the support of their parents/carers with

their homework. If parents require assistance, they are welcome to speak to their child's teacher.

### **Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities**

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. Roseberry Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

### **Absences**

- If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework until the child returns to school.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. **In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head Teacher first.**
- Holidays should not be taken during term time. In the event that this occurs, parents should arrange a meeting with their child's teacher to ensure that this absence does not impact on their progress.
- Parents/carers who have queries about homework should make an appointment to see their child's class teacher or target group teacher or share their views with our family forum.

