

Home Learning Policy



RHODES AVENUE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Approved by: Curriculum Committee **Date:** Summer 2024

Last reviewed on: Summer 2019

Next review due by: Summer 2025

What is Home Learning?

Home Learning refers to the tasks given to pupils by their teachers to complete outside of usual lessons. At Rhodes Avenue, we encourage children to complete home learning activities at home in order to:

- Consolidate and extend learning initiated within school
- Promote independent pupil learning
- Provide the opportunity for family or peer learning
- Encourage parental involvement in, and understanding of, the work their children do at school.

Home learning will vary dependent on each year group. All home learning will be relevant to and compliment the learning completed in school. It should be accessible to all.

At Rhodes Avenue we will provide activities that your child 'Should' be completing and activities that your child 'Could' complete. The 'Could' section is split into 'Focused' and 'Creative' tasks.

General Principles

At the beginning of each school year parents will be informed about the expectations for home learning for the child's particular year group. A Year Group Curriculum Meeting for parents is organised at the start of the academic year. Class teachers will outline what is expected for home learning and how parents can best support their child's home learning.

It is generally recognised that some children may need the support of an adult with home learning tasks. However, as children progress through the school, there is a greater expectation for independent learning, particularly at the top end of the school, in preparation for secondary transfer.

What 'Should' I be completing with my child?

Research shows that short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught and are built upon in school are effective. This is why each year group will provide activities that your child/children should be completing at home. The children will be asked to complete home learning activities independently or with adult support. These activities will relate to classroom learning and will be used as a short focused intervention.

Daily Reading

Books centralise the school curriculum and form the foundation for all learning. We aim to promote a love a reading at school and home. Children should read or listen to stories daily at home for at least 10 minutes each day (duration of which may vary dependent on the year group). Your child may want to read independently, be heard reading, share a story or be read to. Reading exposes children to rich language and diverse content, promotes a range of vocabulary, promotes grammatical structures and can open new worlds.

Parents should talk with their children about the content of their reading. Parents can help in this process by:

- discussing the characters and important events in the text
- encouraging children to predict what might happen next
- discussing emotions felt by characters through dialogue and actions
- extending discussions beyond the text by relating it to everyday life

- encouraging children to give, and to justify, their opinions.

All children will bring a book home to read. This will be a school library book and/or a banded level reading book. Older children are encouraged to bring in their own reading books from home. Levelled reading books are provided based on the teacher's assessment of reading and comprehension.

Reading Journals

Reading Journals are used in Years 2 - 4 to encourage pupils to reflect on and should record their reading experiences. The purpose of the journals is for children to reflect, learn unknown words, share opinions, write reviews, rate what they have read, and write alternative endings. Children take ownership of them as a celebration of reading and communication. Children should be writing in their journals regularly. Effort and commitment to reading journals is celebrated within class and across the school.

Spellings

Each year group has spelling rules they focus on each term as well as a list of non-negotiable words (distinct from the spelling rules) and homophones which should be taught each term. Spelling lists will be shared each week with a suggested activity to support learning the spellings. Children should practise these spellings each week at home. Spellings are tested weekly in school in order to help teachers identify pupils who may need further support with spelling.

Times Tables and Fluency

At Rhodes Avenue, we value the importance of children having the tools for arithmetic at their fingertips. Through knowing their number facts and developing fluency, pupils will gain the foundation for learning different aspects of mathematics such as division, algebra, long multiplication and fractions.

Fluency consists of three elements:

Efficiency - this implies that children do not get bogged down in too many steps or lose track of the logic of the strategy. An efficient strategy is one that the student can carry out easily.

Accuracy depends on several aspects of the problem-solving process, among them careful recording, knowledge of number facts and other important number relationships, and double-checking results.

Flexibility requires the knowledge of more than one approach to solving a particular kind of problem, such as two-digit multiplication. Children need to be flexible in order to choose an appropriate strategy for the numbers involved, and also be able to use one method to solve a problem and another method to check the results.

Children need to understand *why* they are doing what they are doing and *know when it is appropriate* to use different methods.

Year groups will set weekly times table and/or fluency activities. These activities should be returned to school to be checked by the class teacher.

What 'Could' I be completing with my child?

The following activities are activities that you could complete with your child if you choose to do so and have been put together to guide you. These activities will not be checked by the class teacher.

Focused

Focused home learning is to provide the child with the option of completing additional learning at home. All focused homework links to the curriculum coverage. Each year group will provide a list of recommended workbooks for Maths, Grammar and Reading Comprehension that can be purchased by parents themselves. Year Groups will share the appropriate topics that will be focused on each term within the Curriculum Newsletter which is sent to parents at the beginning of each term. Answers may or may not be provided within the recommended books. This home learning will not be returned to school.

Creative

Throughout the year there will be opportunities to enhance learning through undertaking creative projects and activities based on the topic being taught. These activities are designed to encourage shared learning. Shared learning is a collaborative approach to learning that can be completed with parents, siblings, family members or friends.

Each year group will provide a list of recommended activities to complete throughout the year. Children can share their creative learning with their peers in school. Year groups will provide this list at the beginning of each half term or term, enabling parents to look at family calendars and plan the best time to complete projects. Creative learning activities will be celebrated in school through display, presentations, fairs and exhibitions of work or by entering competitions. Parents will be told when creative learning activities can be brought into school.

Equal Opportunities

Equal access to home learning is given to all children regardless of ability, gender, culture, religious or ethnic origin. Rhodes Avenue complies with its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and all staff will have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the abovementioned Act. The school celebrates diversity and encourages inclusion.

Links with other Policies

- Teaching and Learning
- Assessment
- Calculation Policy
- Procedures for policy monitoring and dissemination

The policy will be reviewed according to the Curriculum Committee's Schedule of Policies. All members of staff and governors will receive a copy of this policy. Copies of this policy are available to parents/carers online or on request at the school office.

Staff responsible

- Headteacher
- All teachers
- Curriculum Committee