



Rathdown School

Junior School Homework Policy

Definition

Homework runs parallel to classwork and is based on work covered in class during the day. It contributes to assessment of a pupil's progress and should help to build a child's confidence.

Aims

- To reinforce what the pupil learns during the day. (Homework is meant to be achievable by the child.)
- To enable a teacher to determine if objectives have been mastered.
- To allow a pupil to work alone
- To ensure a pupil can work alone.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills and to develop a work ethic. Homework should be done to the best of a child's ability – no more, no less.

Practice

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:
 - (i) If homework has been neglected during the week or presentation is of a poor standard..
 - (ii) Project work in senior classes can be undertaken at weekends.
- Sometimes, at the discretion of the teacher, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Extra homework may be given during the week to a pupil, if she has failed to do her homework, if she has presented untidy work or if she has not made an acceptable effort.

Content

- KG2 Reading and writing
- KG3 Reading and writing
- P1 Reading, writing, spelling, tables, maths and Irish
- P2 Reading, writing, spelling, tables, maths and Irish.
- P3 Reading, writing, spelling, tables, maths, Irish, History, Geography
- P4 Reading, writing, spelling, tables, maths, Irish, History, Geography, Science
- P5 Reading, writing, spelling, tables, maths, Irish, History, Geography, Science
- P6 Reading, writing, spelling, tables, maths, Irish, History, Geography, Science

Time

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

The following are guidelines for time spent on homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality not the quantity of homework that matters.

- KG2 0 – 10 mins.
- KG3 up to 20 mins.
- P1 up to 30 mins.
- P2 up to 40 mins.
- P3 up to 50 mins.
- P4 up to 1 hour.
- P5 up to 1 hour 15 mins.
- P6 up to 1 hour 30 mins.

Parental Help

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by
 - (i) providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
 - (ii) preventing interruptions and distractions, like television programmes or other children.
- Parents should only help when the child has difficulty, and then only with further explanation, or examples, and not by actually doing the work for her. Parents should inform the teacher of the child's difficulty.

Monitoring Homework

- Parents (P2 – P6) should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening . The journal is an important record of a child's work. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- All written messages between the school and the parents, and vice versa, should be put in the homework journal, which should be checked on a regular basis.
- Teachers should try to check homework on a daily basis, however this is not always possible.
- As children get older, some items of homework are checked less often – maybe once a week.
- Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by the children, themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

Communication Between Teachers and Parents

- When a child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When a child cannot do homework because she does not understand some aspect of it.
- When a child is spending longer than the recommended time on her homework

Homework 'Time'

Ideally homework should be done before any television programme is watched, soon after school while a child is still fresh. However some children need a break before starting homework. Each family situation is different. Homework should **never** be left until the morning time, before school begins.

IF HOMEWORK IS A STRESSFUL EXPERIENCE BETWEEN A PARENT AND A CHILD, SOMETHING IS WRONG! THIS LEADS TO POOR LEARNING AND DEFEATS THE WHOLE PURPOSE. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN ON A REGULAR BASIS, PARENTS SHOULD CONTACT THE CLASS TEACHER.