

HOMEWORK POLICY

Member of Staff Responsible	Deputy Head Academic
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Approved By Governors	No
Distribution:	Teaching Staff

Rokeby wishes to support and extend the education of its pupils in a variety of ways. One of these ways is to provide the pupils with regular homework which has one or more of the following aims:

- to reinforce or extend the learning which has taken place within lessons.
- to provide an opportunity for attempting work with the aim of assessing levels of understanding.
- to provide an opportunity for revision
- to research a topic in greater depth

Rokeby intends to offer a manageable and effective programme of homework to its pupils.

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1. Homework aims

The primary role of homework is to reinforce learning which has already taken place within the classroom. The homework should therefore be designed to follow from work which the pupils have undertaken and may offer the pupil the chance to practise skills acquired in the classroom, or to extend his use of those skills. The homework may also enhance or extend a pupil's knowledge and conceptual grasp, but it should not attempt to introduce the pupil to entirely new concepts or skills without prior teaching and learning within the classroom context. On occasion, pupils may be asked to think about or research a new topic in preparation for the next lesson.

As a result of classroom learning the pupil may undertake work which is intended to *show his level of understanding* of a particular topic or his grasp of a concept or skill. Such work must be linked directly to class work and must be set as close as possible to the time when the topic was covered.

Prior to exams or classroom tests, the boys may be asked to review their work. Such revision requires guidance from the teaching staff and, where appropriate, the relevant training in the use of study skills to ensure that the revision time is used to its fullest advantage and without confusion for the pupil.

2. Timing and quantity

Year	Daily Allocation	Number of subjects per night
3	20 minutes	As set by the Form Teacher
4	20 minutes increasing to 30 minutes during the year	English, maths and science
5	60 minutes maximum	English and maths from Monday – Thursday. Other subjects over the weekend on rotation
6	60 minutes	English and maths from Monday – Thursday. Other subjects over the weekend on rotation From Spring term: Two subjects – 30 minutes per subject
7	60 minutes	Two subjects - 30 minutes per subject
8	60 minutes	Two subjects - 30 minutes per subject

As far as possible homework will be set on the same day as the subject is taught.

The subject schedule is weighted against the demands of the curriculum and its core subject areas. In Years 3 and 4 the homework will be centred around English and maths. In Years 5 and 6, English and maths homework will be scheduled to be completed from Monday through to Thursday. Other examined subjects will be set over the weekend on rotation. In Year 6, boys will be set two subjects per night from a point in the Spring term.

Pupils will not receive set homework during the holidays. Revision material for upcoming assessments will be made available where appropriate. Boys are encouraged to devise a revision timetable prior to school exams to enable them to prepare in a methodical way. Study skills and revision techniques are developed through subject lessons and bespoke PSHEE lessons.

3. Teaching staff obligations

The teachers will provide homework which is in accordance with this policy and the homework timetable. It is incumbent upon the teaching staff to ensure that the amount of homework and its quality is tailored in such a way that it fulfils one or all of the aims outlined under **Homework aims** above.

Teachers should also ensure:

- that the homework is set in a clear way and carefully explained to the pupils and that they have an opportunity to record it in their homework diaries.
- that the homework is handed in at the set time and that pupils who fail to give homework in on time are sanctioned in an appropriate manner.
- that the homework is marked quickly and incisively to achieve maximum benefit for the pupil's learning experience.
- that the homework is an exercise set for completion at home, even if it is begun in class time.

If a boy has been absent, a subject teacher may ask a pupil to complete some work at home,. This work should be set with consideration of the other demands on the pupil's time and therefore a reasonable amount of time for its completion should be given. This also applies to those children receiving *Learning Support* who may need to practise some skills at home.

4. Parental involvement

Rokeby appreciates the support of parents and the value of their guidance when boys are completing homework. It is advised that boys undertake their homework in a comfortable and well-lit area, at an appropriate time and with suitable rest breaks.

The school would emphasise that, with the homework intentions outlined above, there should be no need for direct parental help if this involves tuition, as any problems with the homework should be passed back to the subject teacher with a note in the child's homework diary or via email for the subject teacher to see. There is then the opportunity for the subject teacher to give further help to the child with a clear understanding of the difficulties.

It is appreciated if parents/carers check that the homework is successfully completed, to help ensure a disciplined approach. If a child is labouring beyond his time slot for a piece of homework, it is suggested that the child is asked to stop working, and a note be put in the homework diary.

5. Practicalities

Homework timetable: a homework timetable is issued to all boys in Years 3-8 at the beginning of each academic year. It would be helpful if this were prominently displayed at home.

Homework diary: all pupils are issued with a homework diary at the beginning of the academic year. They are required to take this diary to all lessons and to make a careful note of any homework. The diary needs to be examined and signed every week by a parent or guardian and then checked for signing by the form teacher. If the diary is not signed, the pupil is encouraged to exercise better discipline and to ensure good progress. If the diary is lost, a new one must quickly be obtained, possibly at a small charge, from the school office.

Use of Firefly: homework tasks may be set using Firefly. When this occurs, boys are responsible for following the instructions and submitting their work. The expectation will be for boys to complete tasks and have a hard copy as a record in their folder or books.

Absence: if a child is absent from school due to illness, it is at the discretion of the teachers concerned as to whether the boy should do missed homework. If parents decide to remove a child from school at the beginning or end of term because of holiday arrangements, they should not expect the teaching staff to set extra work to compensate for this.