

HOMEWORK POLICY

Member of Staff Responsible	Deputy Head Academic
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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.

Following the marking of work, pupils may be given 'Next Steps' comments, which will result in 'I Need To' tasks; these may be set for homework.

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	Weekly allocation	Topic
Reception Autumn	5 banded reading books and one picture book (changed weekly)	Reading
	Practice sheet (not handed in)	Handwriting
Reception Spring	6 banded reading books (changed weekly)	Reading
	Piece set on a Friday and returned on a Wednesday (10-15 minutes)	English/maths/topic
Reception Summer	6 banded reading books (changed weekly)	Reading
	5 HFW words set on a Friday and tested on a Friday	Spelling
1	Weekly set sent out at the start of each half term	Spellings
	Piece set on a Friday and returned on Wednesday (20-30 minutes)	Mix of core subjects
	6 banded reading books weekly	Reading
2	Weekly set sent out at the start of each half term	Spellings and times tables
	6 banded reading books weekly	Reading
	Piece set on a Monday and returned on a Friday (30 minutes)	Mix of core subjects
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 reasoning
5	Monday to Thursday = 30 minutes, Friday = up to 30 minutes per subject	English and maths from Monday – Thursday. Other subjects over the weekend on rotation. Weekly optional Verbal and/or Non-Verbal Reasoning exercises.
6	60 minutes maximum (English and Maths maximum = 45 minutes)	Autumn Term: English and maths (max 45 mins) from Monday – Thursday. Other subjects over the weekend on rotation. Weekly optional Verbal and/or Non-Verbal Reasoning exercises. From Spring term: Two subjects per night – 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. It is the usual expectation that homework is completed on the day that it is set, but it is due within two days (i.e. homework set on a Monday is required by Wednesday morning). This is to allow for boys to have commitments and plans after the school day. If more time than this is needed, then this may be requested before the deadline by the boy or his parents. The duration of a homework should be determined by the amount of time that the pupil has spent on it, not by the completion of a set task or amount of work. This allows for boys with all learning needs and working speeds to engage in the task. Once the required amount of time has been spent, as outlined in the above table, a pupil may stop.

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 on a Friday 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 PSHE 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 (in the lesson and on Firefly) and carefully explained to the pupils in the lesson.
- Homework should be published on Firefly by 16.15 at the latest on days where it is due to be set. Any homework published after this time does not need to be completed and no sanctions can be given for missing work. If homework is set on an earlier day, the explanation of the task should relay that it is not the expectation that this work is done before the designated night.
- The formatting of tasks on Firefly follows the standardised format (explained below).
- 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. Further information can be found in the Feedback and Presentation policy.
- 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 and that the subject teacher is made aware. There is then the opportunity for the subject teacher to give further help to the child with a clear understanding of the difficulties. However, if help or support has been given, then please do inform the class teacher so that they have this context when evaluating attainment or when planning future exercises.

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, as per the school's expectations on homework duration.

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.

Use of Firefly: homework tasks are set using Firefly in Year 3 and above. When this occurs, boys are responsible for following the instructions and submitting their work. The following format should be used for tasks:

- For homework tasks:
 - o HWK Subject Date - Description
 - o For example, 'HWK Maths 03.02.26 – Constructing Triangles'
- For other types of task:
 - o Optional – Description. For example: 'Optional - Are you a Digital Detective?'
 - o Revision – Description. For example: 'Revision – Year 8 mocks', or for more subject-based tasks: 'Revision – English exam'
 - o Form – Description. For example: 'Form– Bowling food choices', or 'Form – Marking and feedback survey'

As well as this, please regularly archive your completed tasks to reduce the clutter on Firefly.

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 complete missed homework. If parents request extended absence, they should not expect the teaching staff to set extra work to compensate for this.