



Regent House School
Preparatory Department

Draft Homework Policy

'Achieving excellence together'

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Ratified by Governors: 2019
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Regent House School Preparatory Department Homework Policy

1. The Purpose of Homework

- To encourage pupils to develop the skills needed for independent learning
- To practise, consolidate and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom
- To foster a link between home and school enabling parents to become involved in their child's education
- To prepare for the child's future education by establishing a pattern of learning beyond the school environment

It is our aim and ethos at Regent House School Preparatory Department to work with parents. Should there be any concerns about a child completing homework, parents are encouraged to speak to the class teacher who will, when appropriate, cater the homework to suit. Homework should consolidate learning and challenge a child without much parental intervention. It should not require more than the designated time (see below) to complete or cause distress to child or parent.

2. The Role of the Teacher

- **To plan and prepare appropriate homework suited to the child's age and ability**
- To explain purpose and success criteria for the homework
- Ensure every pupil has noted his/her homework in a homework diary from the appropriate age
- To mark the homework as soon as possible and provide oral/written feedback to the child
- To work in partnership with parents to discuss any necessary changes to homeworks e.g. if the child is ill, if content or quantity of homework needs modified to meet more specific needs
- To inform parents if children are regularly failing to produce homework or if the standard is unacceptable

3. The Role of the Parent

- To support the home/school partnership for learning
- To provide a suitable place to work
- To support their child in developing good time management skills and helping them ensure deadlines are met
- To ensure the child understands what he/she is doing and offer support where necessary – homework should not require substantial parent intervention, if it does, please see the class teacher
- To give praise and encouragement
- If homework tasks are taking too long to complete, parents may endorse unfinished work as having taken the allocated time
- To inform the teacher if there are persistent difficulties when completing homework

4. The Role of the Child

- To ensure he/she has written homework in his/her homework diary
- To ensure that he/she understands what the homework set
- To ensure work is completed to the best of his/her ability
- To ensure homework is complete and returned to the teacher on time

5. Homework Tasks

Homework tasks will include reading, spelling, written literacy and mathematics including mental maths (maths facts) and this takes place every Monday – Thursday. There is no homework on Friday or over weekend unless agreed with parents e.g. Prep 6/7 preparing for transfer. There is no written homework on Thursday in Foundation and Key Stage 1 as this evening is a good opportunity to revise weekly spelling and maths facts for the Friday test. Sometimes homework may be set over a week e.g. research homework in Prep 4 – 7 or it may be set over a fortnight e.g. a project. Children enjoy projects which provide them with opportunity to work alongside their parents. Projects will not be set more often than once per term.

Reading

Children have an assigned reading homework every evening (Monday – Thursday). It is important that parents hear their children reading aloud regularly and engage in discussion about the reading. We also encourage children to spend time reading library books or their own favourite stories in addition to set homework. Children will take part in guided reading and will have a reading record book/diary which parents can see the assigned reading and can comment on progress if they wish. In Prep 4- 7 children are expected to manage their own time and exercise independence.

Spelling

From Primary 2 spelling is included in homework tasks. We suggest the LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK TECHNIQUE is used to help children learn the spellings. The steps for this are:

- LOOK at the word to be learned with your child.
- SAY the word Check that the child understands what the word means. Spell out the letter names for the word.
- COVER the word.
- WRITE the word from memory, saying the letters aloud.
- CHECK the spelling. Correct if necessary.

It is important to reward correct spellings with praise. If incorrect, encourage your child to try again.

6. Time Given to Homework Tasks

- Homework is normally set for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.
- Pupils in Prep 6 and 7 may have additional homework over the weekends in relation to transfer preparation.
- **The table below shows average times for pupils working at each of the levels.** Homework for pupils on the Special Educational Needs Register may vary in content and duration to suit individual needs.

Class	Approx. Time	Homework
Prep 1	20mins	Home Learning Activities: Phonics, Reading Written: 1 Literacy 1 Mathematics
Prep 2	20mins	Home Learning Activities: Reading, Spelling (Nov), Maths Facts (Jan) Written: 1 Literacy 1 Mathematics

Prep 3	30mins	Home Learning Activities: Reading, Spelling, Maths Facts Written: 1 Literacy 1 Mathematics 1 WAU
Prep 4	30 – 40 mins	Home Learning Activities: Reading, Spelling, Maths Facts Written: 1 Literacy 1 Mathematics 1 WAU
Prep 5	45mins	Home Learning Activities: Reading, Spelling, Maths Facts Written: 1 Literacy 1 Mathematics 1 Topic / Comprehension 1 Literacy / Mathematics Revision
Prep 6	1 – 1 ½ hour	Home Learning Activities: Reading, Spelling, Maths Facts, Vocabulary, Grammar Facts Written: 1 Literacy 1 Mathematics 1 Topic / Comprehension 1 Literacy / Mathematics Revision Weekend: Completion of work
Prep 7	1 – 1 ½ hour	Home Learning Activities: Reading, Spelling, Maths Facts, Vocabulary, Grammar Facts Written: 4 Literacy 4 Mathematics Weekend: AQE Practice Paper (Term 1)

Homework Diaries (P1 – 7)

We would greatly appreciate homework diaries being signed by parents to ensure they are aware of set homework each night. The homework diary is a good way to communicate any homework or other concerns to the class teacher.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.