



# **Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust**

## **Homework Policy**



## **What research says:**

The Education Endowment Fund reports that research into homework ([read here](#)) has mainly been carried out in relation to secondary schools. There is evidence to suggest schools that give homework perform better, but it is not clear that this is due to the homework itself. In addition, gains in relation to primary aged children are seen to be small. One benefit of homework is that it can help parents support their children in building positive attitudes towards their education, but it is our belief that this should be balanced with the needs of children to develop other interests and have time to rest.

Evidence suggests that short focused tasks that link directly to current learning - and on-going retrieval of prior learning linked to gains in long-term memory - are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework that lacks a specific purpose. Taking this into account, homework will follow the activities listed below. It will not be marked as its impact will be seen through pupils' on-going learning in class.

## **Home Reading:**

Helping children to read and developing 'reading for pleasure' is the single most important thing that parents can do to help with their children's education. If possible, reading should be done every day. It is an excellent way to bring 'screen time' to a close and help settle children into a healthy, bedtime routine. Reading can also be linked to current school topics to support interest and understanding.

## **Reading Scheme Books:**

Each week, children will receive a reading scheme book. These books build skills over time by introducing children to new sentence structures and vocabulary. Parents can worry that these books are not 'challenging', but the schemes are designed to develop language and grammatical structures. If parents feel that books are unsuitable, they should speak to their child's teacher. Generally, children should have scheme books until the end of Year 4, but it is not a 'race' to finish.

## **Library Books:**

In addition to reading scheme books, children should bring home a library book. This should be a book that interests them and is suited to their general level of reading. As these books may be more challenging, parents can share the reading or read to their children. A key thing here is that children understand new words and knowledge, so parents should discuss the content and meaning.

## **Maths Skills:**

Fluency in maths skills (e.g. number bonds, times tables, telling the time) is another aspect that can have a big impact on children's learning. Scientific research has proven that the human brain has limited 'thinking space', so storing basic facts in long-term memory helps when working on difficult problems. We advise that children practise these basic skills until they know



them 'by heart'. School will provide a list of topics each half term. Educational games can support learning in an engaging and fun way.

### **Spelling:**

Children can struggle to learn long lists of spellings. To help, we split the weekly list into daily chunks of 3. These spellings will link to a weekly focus on a spelling rule or pattern, words from the National Curriculum 'word lists' and some subject-specific words linked to current topics.

### **Knowledge Organisers:**

For some subjects, 'knowledge organisers' are used to set out the main facts and vocabulary that children should learn for topics being studied. Children will be shown how to learn this information by 'self-testing'. The 'KO' will be sent home for pupils to use as an on-going homework task; parents can help by checking their children's recall and understanding of this key information.

### **Additional Tasks:**

Where teachers see fit, they may suggest short activities that will develop learning from a lesson or pre-empt a forthcoming lesson. These will be added to the homework page as they occur to keep parents informed.

### **Home-Learning Projects:**

Each half term, three projects will be suggested for children to do at home (1 Science; 1 History or Geography; 1 Art or DT). The aim of these is to develop deeper interest and engagement in the curriculum topics that the children are studying. These projects will not be marked, but they will be displayed in school in a celebration event at the end of each half term.