



Trent Vale Infant and Nursery School *and* **Beeston Rylands Junior School**



POLICY FOR HOMEWORK

- **THIS DOCUMENT IS** a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the setting of homework at Trent Vale Infant and Nursery School and Beeston Rylands Junior School.
- **IT WAS DEVELOPED** in July 2008 through a process of consultation between the Headteachers and staff.
- IT WILL BE continuously reviewed, updated and approved by the Governing Bodies, Headteacher and Teaching Staff
- This policy will be REVIEWED ANNUALLY

Date of review	Autumn 2017	Autumn 2018	Autumn 2019
Signed			

Introduction

At Trent Vale Infant and Nursery School and Beeston Rylands Junior School we appreciate how important the links are between home and school, and the need for parents, carers and teachers to work together to ensure the best possible education for their children. It is for this reason that we believe that it is important that young children begin to bring ‘work’ home from a young age. This enables parents and carers to help their child to learn and for children to see parents, carers and teachers working together. We also recognise that family time is important and homework should not be at the detriment of this nor should it cause conflict within the home environment.

The Aims and purpose of homework

Homework is set and completed in order to:

- reinforce knowledge and skills that have been taught in class
- encourage children’s independence and organisational skills
- create a firm partnership between parents, carers and teachers in relation to children’s learning
- practise key skills that will help the children across a range of lessons
- be manageable and meaningful for children, parents and carers
- Foster a love of learning

The role of parents

Ways in which you can support your child’s learning at home:

- Listen to your child read and try to spend time talking with them about what they are reading.
- Encourage and support your child in any work that is sent home, give them a helping hand and praise their achievements.
- Use the information in the curriculum overview or newsletter at the start of the term. If possible visit the library and find books on the topics they are covering, visit museums or places of interest that will give them some extra understanding.
- If you have access to the internet there are many useful sites that you can look at together.

Homework at Trent Vale Infant and Nursery School

The Details

Once children have started full time school they are expected to read regularly at home, (at least 4 times a week), and have their reading diary signed. This does not have to be a time consuming exercise, 10-15 minutes is fine. Part of this time can also be to learn letter sounds, (phonics), Bear Words, the reading and spelling of key words and to talk about the book they are reading. (See the Reading Diary for more details). Teaching staff will check diaries weekly and make necessary comments as they read with children. All children are expected to have their reading diaries in school every day.

Counting is a good activity that can be carried out by all children at home. Once they can count in 1's to 20 then you can begin to count in 2's, 5's and 10's and then start to practise their 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables. Teachers may also give your child a piece of numeracy homework that is designed to support and reinforce what they have been learning in school.

In addition children may be given other pieces of homework, designed to enhance their learning and develop further interest in their work, e.g. to find out the answer to a question about the topic being studied.

It is not always appropriate to set the same homework for each and every child in a class. Homework is designed to meet the learning needs of all children, so some work may be in the form of a game, whilst other work may be based on a piece of writing.

Home-School Contact

It is really important that children have their reading diaries in school every day. Please use your child's reading diary for comments and questions about reading. If you have other messages or questions either send in a separate note for your child to give directly to their teacher or phone school and leave a message.

Homework at Beeston Rylands Junior School

The Details

All children are expected to read regularly at home, (at least 3-4 times a week), and have their school planners signed. This does not have to be a time consuming exercise, 10-15 minutes is fine. This is important because a short focused reading activity/ task will be related to this book. As the children get older and more proficient, some of their reading will be done independently but we still feel it is important for an adult at home to be aware of what their child is reading and to support them in this. Teaching staff will check planners weekly and make necessary comments as they read with the children.

All children are expected to have their reading books and planners in school every day.

All children will receive a weekly grammar/ reading task

All children will have a spelling activity. This may be in the form of a list or another appropriate activity.

All children will be expected to practise and learn their Times Tables.

There will be an activity assigned on Mathematics linked to their current topic/ learning.

In addition children may be given other pieces of homework throughout the year, designed to enhance their learning and develop further interest in their work e.g. a piece of research linked to a history topic or something to make as part of a Design and Technology project.

It is not always appropriate to set the same homework for each and every child in a class.

Homework is designed to meet the learning needs of all children, so some work may be in the form of a game, whilst other work may be based on a piece of writing.

In Year 6, in order to ensure the children are Secondary School ready, they may receive specific additional tasks in preparation for their SATs.

There may also be issued bespoke homework tasks for those children who need consolidation activities. This will be individually discussed with the child, parents & carers.

Home-school contact

There is space in all children's planners for comments and questions. We encourage parents to use this as means of communicating quickly and directly with the teaching staff. Teachers will also use it to pass messages home, so it is equally important that parents check their child's planner daily.

This section is also used by the children to record homework or important things to remember.

Homework will be acknowledged and rewarded where appropriate.

Concerns and queries

Staff at both schools are very happy to discuss homework with parents, should any difficulties arise. If parents are concerned about homework they should make an appointment to see the teacher at a mutually convenient time.