



Royal Cross Primary School

Lancashire's school for deaf children

Policy Title:	Homework Policy
Date of Issue:	07/03/2023
Date of Review:	Spring Term 2024
Author and Role:	Headteacher Bev Hennefer.
Ratified by:	Governors Policy Committee
Responsible Signatory:	Clive Gregory
Date of signature:	Signature removed for GDPR purposes
Details:	This Policy: Is designed to help colleagues understand their roles and Responsibilities when setting homework. Homework should endeavour to compliment, consolidate and reinforce the learning that takes place within the classroom.
Cross reference:	Remote Learning Policy Remote Learning Information for Families. Single Equality Policy

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Royal Cross School is committed to the fair treatment of all in line with the Equality Act 2010. An equality impact assessment has been completed on this policy to ensure that it can be implemented consistently regardless of any protected characteristics and all will be treated with dignity and respect.

POLICY REVIEW

To ensure that this policy is relevant and up to date, comments and suggestions for additions or amendments are sought from users of this document. To contribute towards the process of review, please contact the author of the policy.

Royal Cross Primary School Homework Policy

Statement of Intent

At Royal Cross School we believe homework should endeavour to compliment, consolidate and reinforce the learning that takes place within the classroom. For the purpose of this policy, "homework", is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. Whatever the activity, homework should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience that does not place pressure on the pupil or the family.

This is particular important when considering the SEN and impact of Deafness on Royal Cross pupils. The effort of attending for long periods when wearing hearing aid equipment can be exhausting for children and they will need frequent breaks to support their pathway to learning.

The ability to support pupil's home learning is closely linked with families abilities to communicate effectively with their children (BSL). To support this Royal Cross runs regular BSL signing course for families along with curriculum workshops led by Qualified Teachers of the Deaf with additional teaching and learning responsibilities (TLR) responsibilities. In addition, many support staff are 'Champions' in aspects of learning and will also support families in workshops such as Phonics.

Aims

- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- To enhance the quality of learning experience offered to pupils.
- To encourage family learning and thereby promote pupils' positive attitude to learning.
- To involve parents/carers in their child's learning and promote enjoyable family learning experiences.
- To help parents/carers understand the level their child is working at.
- To give an opportunity for the child to share with an adult, parent or carer what they are learning.
- To develop an effective partnership between school and parents/carers.
- To allow pupils to practice skills in a different context/setting.
- To ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account.

Principles

Homework should:

- Have a clear focus and time considerations.
- Reinforce work completed in the classroom.
- Take into account individual pupil's learning styles, SEN and communication needs.
- Have plenty of opportunities to succeed.
- Develop a range of skills across the curriculum including those identified as part of a pupils' Personalised Learning Plans.
- Be manageable for teachers, parents/carers and pupils.

The Amount of Homework

The amount of homework will vary according to the needs of the individual and family circumstances. Varying levels of support will be required to assist the family in achieving a positive outcome for all.

Parents are encouraged to discuss such matters with the class teacher when attending Personal Learning Plan meetings. This can include support for sign vocabulary and additional learning materials for use at home.

Parental support for Homework

At Royal Cross we believe that positive outcomes for homework are best achieved when school and home works in partnership to discuss the expectations around the practical and realistic roles of parents in supporting homework.

We would like parents / carers to:

- Provide their child with a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which they can do their homework.
- Make it clear to their child that they value homework.
- Encourage their child and praise them when engaging in homework.
- Support their child to work towards any deadlines.
- Be supportive but should not complete their child's homework for them.
- Return any evidence of their child engaging with homework activities via Class Dojo where possible, if not via email or through paper resources being returned to school.

Homework may involve the following:

- Use of reward programmes, such as WOW cards, to reinforce and encourage students.
- The use of visual supports at home to increase communication and interaction.
- Visiting links to resources as shared by school.
- Use of online learning sites, apps and technology within the home.
- Practical activities to enhance communication and problem solving such as cooking, shopping or gardening.
- Working on their child's Personalised Learning Plan targets.
- Activity banks personalised to the individual.
- Visits to the local library.
- Reading with, reading to or listening to the child read. This can be any kind of book that the child is interested in. Families can share picture books and chat about characters and look at picture cues.

Considerations

Short activities provide a very important opportunity for children to communicate about what they are learning to an interested adult, and to practice skills in a supportive environment. This approach suits the attendance and 'tiredness' levels of Deaf children whose first language is a visual language (BSL). These children need frequent breaks to support attention.

For some children the tasks at home provide the opportunity to develop skills of independent learning, for others it is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, however brief, which is most valuable in promoting learning.

Monitoring of Homework Policy

Curriculum Leaders and senior leadership teams will monitor homework within classes to ensure that the policy is being implemented consistently. This ensures that the policy leads to good practice in facilitating homework and as a positive an impact on pupil progress during lessons.

The purpose of the Homework

- To support a positive partnership with parents or carers, involving them actively in their child's learning.
- To consolidate, generalise, maintain and reinforce skills that are worked on across curriculum areas.
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- To further increase confidence as a successful learner.

Homework needs to be:

- Achievable
- A rewarding experience
- Fun!

Summary

A successful policy depends on a supportive partnership with parents/carers. Communication with parents / carers is essential in supporting learning at home. At Royal Cross we strive to communicate with parents in whatever method best suits individual circumstance.

This may include one or a variety of the following:

- Home / school books
- Newsletters, paper and electronic
- Emails
- Phone calls
- Parent Texts for our BSL users
- Teams video calls for parents / carers living at a distance to school
- Class Dojo
- School Dojo
- Annual Education Health and Care Plan reviews
- Personal Learning Plan meetings
- Class newsletters on the school web site

In order for a homework policy to be effective:

- It must complement the classroom learning.
- Parents/carers must be involved in the learning process.
- Parents / carers must be supported to develop the communication (BSL) and the updated curriculum knowledge to support home learning.
- Progression needs to be acknowledged through feedback.
- Relevant resources are prepared and provided by class teams.
- Homework will be marked against the marking and feedback policy

Review:

This Policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required.