

Homework Policy



Written by:	David Jenkins	Date: September 2023
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Aim

The aim of this policy is to state clearly the school's position on homework and to ensure that teachers, children and parents are clear about the purposes of homework and what will be set as homework and when.

The purpose of homework

Homework should be set to:

- reinforce work being done in school
- to meet pupil and parental expectations
- to strengthen links between school and home
- to foster parental involvement and understanding
- to enable children to have more individual time with an adult

At Bunscoill Rhumsaa children will regularly receive the following homework;

Reading

Parents are asked to support their children in reading at home, using the following as a guide as to how long each reading time should last - our recommendation for younger pupils is that they should share a book with an adult at home every day.

Reading records will be provided by school. Home reading books will usually be changed each week at the school (except where it is appropriate for the teacher to ask children to keep the same book for a little longer e.g. if it is a longer book, or if there is further learning to be carried out with the text).

Children's Age	How long to read for?	How often?
Reception to Year 3	10 - 15 minutes	Daily
Year 4 to Year 6	15 minutes + (the sky is the limit, as long as it is enjoyable!)	Minimum three times a week

Spelling

Bunscoill Rhumsaa uses the Spelling Shed programme for spelling. To facilitate this, teachers will give their pupils a spelling list each week to practise, and a test the following week. Teachers will provide activities to help their pupils practise their spellings in class and at home.

Mathematics

Mathematics homework will be sent home weekly from Year 2 onwards. It may include using MyMaths (ICT based homework in Key Stage 2), learning multiplication tables or consolidation/practise tasks following on from work undertaken in class.

Other Home-Learning Activities

As well as ongoing Literacy and Maths homework as described above, from time-to-time teachers may set an additional, topic-based homework activity.

This will likely be a more creative activity related to the children's current topic and will be designed so that it requires the children to apply their prior learning or independent research skills away from the classroom.

In these cases, we encourage pupils to be as creative, imaginative and adventurous as they like! The children will generally be given a longer timescale to complete the home learning activity, and we would encourage parents to get involved by asking questions, facilitating research trips (to libraries, places of interest etc) or sharing their own expertise.

Recent examples of this type of homework include building a model of a Viking village, creating a new 'Ancient Language', building a form of transport, and many more!

Expectation for Completion of Homework

At Bunscoill Rhumsaa, pupils will not be punished for not completing a homework task; instead, they will be praised if they do and may be rewarded within the school's rewards system at the teachers discretion.

However, we do strongly encourage pupils to complete homework tasks where possible as the tasks are designed to support the children's learning and to enable them to share their learning at home. In addition, we believe that it is a good learning habit to develop for the future.

It is important at Primary School age that homework does not become an onerous, unpleasant experience. If you feel that your child is spending more time than you would like on homework then please do talk to the class teacher.