



Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners.

We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning. Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of homework

We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance and information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading and sharing books with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings and carry out English or maths work as part of their homework. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined for Key Stage 1, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set English and maths homework routinely each week and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning carried out in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for assessments as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

Amount of homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school and guidance is given to parents at the start of each academic year during a class curriculum meeting. The length of time recommended for homework follows DfE guidelines which are as follows:

- Years 1 and 2 – 1 hour per week
- Years 3 and 4 – 1.5 hours per week
- Years 5 and 6 – 30 minutes per day

Pupils with SEND

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework for SEND pupils, we may refer to the Focussed Target Record (FTR).

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their children's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should contact the child's class teacher.

Monitoring and review

Staff and Governors will monitor and review this Homework policy as appropriate.

Signed: Executive Headteacher: *S.L. Slack*

Signed: Chair of Governors: *G. Duncan*

Date: Updated September 2020