

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

'Love God, Love Others, Love Ourselves'



Homework Policy

Date of Ratification: September 2017		Signed:  Ms Philomena Egan (HEAD TEACHER)  Mrs Sherron Alexander-Bedingfield (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)
Review date: Spring 2020		Signed:  Ms Philomena Egan (HEAD TEACHER)  Mrs Sherron Alexander-Bedingfield (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)

Safeguarding Statement

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

Homework Policy

Aim

“Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents/carers.”

The Department for Education (DfE)

The homework policy need to have enough detail to give clear guidance to parents and teachers about what is expected of them and of pupils on a weekly basis.

Why Homework is necessary

Learning is a complex process; it includes learning how to learn, how to deal with different opinions and perspectives, how to develop new skills, how to apply old skills to new situations, and how to motivate yourself and other people. Supporting learning in school or at home is also inevitably complex.

At our school we believe in improving the quality of learning through regular homework. Supporting learning is more than simply offering more information through homework. We believe it includes improving the motivation of pupils, reducing blocks to learning created by peer pressure, getting pupils to help each other and setting achievable goals. Learning is about independence and regular homework helps to improve the quality of learning in the following ways:

- Help pupils to make quicker progress in learning
- Practice skills learned in the classroom; consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, particularly in R.E., English and Mathematics.
- Extend existing lesson time; consolidate or extend work done in school
- Prepare the ground for subsequent lessons
- Check that pupils have understood their class work
- Give opportunities to pupils for long term research and other work
- Allow pupils to develop the routine of working on their own without the reminder of the teacher, other pupils or adults and give opportunities for independent work
- Help pupils to see the connection between good study habits and higher achievement
- Allow pupils to use material and other sources of information not available or limited availability in the class room or school
- Help pupils to work to deadlines
- Experience and reinforce the methods of study imperative to success at secondary school. Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for requirements of secondary school
- Involve parents and others in the pupil’s work
- Developing an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the school. This is also, of course the purpose of home school agreements

The nature of homework

Our recommended time allocation for daily homework activities is as follows;

- Reception 10 minutes reading and 10 minutes on other activities
- Y1 and 2 10 minutes reading and 15 minutes on other activities
- Y 3 and 4 20 minutes reading and 20 minutes on other activities
- Y 5 and 6 20 minutes reading and 30 minutes on other activities

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the QUALITY OF TASKS set and the way they are planned to support learning. At St Mary's the tasks given to the children are Year Group relevant tasks.

Please see Appendix A for the allocation of tasks by Year Group.

All homework should be aimed at consolidating skills and knowledge that has been taught at school supporting each year group's curriculum. This is done using a variety of different media.

The School's responsibility

- Integrate homework with other aspects of school work
- Have strategies for ensuring that a child whose home life is uncondusive to homework is not disadvantaged
- Be clear about the roles of the school, the pupils and parents – please see our Home School Agreement
- Take account of the different skills and abilities of different pupils – pupils may demonstrate skills in their homework that are rarely shown in class work
- Special needs children can be set homework that helps them to develop or practise and consolidate skills that are being taught in school
- Monitor the success of the arrangements carefully
- Homework is linked to reinforce target setting
- The purpose of homework changes as children get older – in Foundation Year and Key Stage 1 developing partnership with parents and carers and involving them actively in children's learning is the key purpose whereas in Key Stage 2 the purpose is to reinforce and support the taught curriculum alongside developing good study habits and further research skills.
- If homework is not completed in the first instance, the class teacher will speak to the child and arrange for them to complete it and return it with a date set. If this happens regularly, the class teacher will arrange to meet with the parent/s to discuss ways forward.

The Pupil's responsibility

- Complete daily work
- Take necessary materials home and return the next day (i.e. books, paper, assignment pad, resources....)
- Have work completed and returned by the set deadline

We expect pupils to hand in homework on time. If homework is not given on time the following action is taken.

- In the first instance the class teacher will have a discussion with the pupil
- The class teacher may contact the parents – home school diary
- The school expects a short note from parents giving reasons for lack of completion
- Children in KS2 may be expected to complete their homework at lunchtime if a valid reason is not given for incomplete work.
- Children will be given as much support as necessary to complete homework within a given time.

Homework is co-ordinated by the Senior Management Team and monitored regularly in discussion with teachers and the Head teacher.

The Parents/Carers responsibility

(Home/school Agreement, School Prospectus, Tips for helping your child with homework advice sheet – Appendix B)

- Take positive and active interest in your child's work
- Make sure suitable conditions are achieved at home. TV switched off.
- Enable your child to organise his/her time in the best way possible
- Help to develop and reinforce a sense of responsibility
- Monitor your child's progress and know what area of the curriculum is covered in class
- Help your child but do not do the work
- Where necessary contact class teacher who will be happy to share any problems and give advice
- Give advice on method to be used, following the example given in the homework
- Provide further extension to the examples already given
- Provide instant feedback – praise when work is completed

Your cooperation, concern and understanding will help make homework a pleasurable learning experience.

A final thought:

*You can provide
A time to listen,
A time to share,
A time to love, and a time to care.*