

St Mary's Catholic Primary School 2025/2026



'Love God, Love Others, Love Ourselves'

Our Homework Policy

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning." — Albert Einstein

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.

In St Mary's, 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:

- Helps 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
- 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 classroom 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 (Homework Guide) 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 unconducive 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.

The Pupil's responsibility

- Complete daily work
- Take necessary materials home and return when due (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.

- If a child's homework is incomplete, and the parents do not give a valid reason, the child will miss five minutes of playtime. If a child's homework is incomplete for three consecutive weeks, the class teacher will contact the Key Stage Lead who will notify the parents by letter or phone call. If this happens regularly, the class teacher will arrange to meet with the parent/s to discuss ways forward.
- 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

- Take positive and active interest in your child's work
- Make sure suitable work conditions are achieved at home (e.g. T.V. is 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 for them
- Where necessary contact your child's 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 co-operation, 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,
A time to care.***

Appendix A – Homework Guide

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Homework Guide



	RE	Reading	Maths	SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)
Reception		Children to be heard by an adult at home. Reading books are changed regularly twice per week. Parent to comment in the reading diary. Please encourage repeat reading to support with sight recognition of words.	Some home challenges will be set in relation to work covered in class.	Year 1 – 6 Spelling Shed Children will get weekly spellings based on a phonics sound or a spelling rule. These will consist of the compulsory spellings for each year group. Children have a spelling test every Monday.
Year 1	Children will complete an RE task based on their RE lessons every second week.		MyMaths - children will be given a tasks each week to complete linked to their learning. NB: The home learning section of the White Rose Maths website https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/ contains daily revision videos, which can be used to consolidate daily learning at home.	Please practise the spellings on spelling shed but also on paper with a pencil. A spelling/grammar/ comprehension task will be sent home every other week for children to complete at home.
Year 2				
Year 3				
Year 4				
Year 5				
Year 6				

All homework will be set on a Monday and collected the following Monday.