

ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Reviewed: Summer 2022

Next review: Summer 2025

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for teachers, parents and pupils in the provision of homework to enable children to assume ownership for their own learning.

For the purpose of this policy the term homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside of lesson time, either on their own or with the support of parents or carers.

To be effective, homework needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents and the school. It forms part of the School's Agreement to "provide a broad and balanced curriculum, open to all children, who will be supported in their learning according to their needs." Parents agree to, "help our children complete any homework task that is set" as part of the Parents' Agreement.

The purpose of homework

The purpose of this policy is:

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and the home in supporting the aims of the school.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, with particular reference to English and Maths.
- To exploit all kinds of resources for learning within the home.
- To extend the learning opportunities
- To encourage pupils over a period of time to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own in preparation for the secondary phase of their education.
- To provide over a period of time increasing opportunities for pupils to develop the skills of independent learning and assuming responsibility for their own learning.

Homework strategies

The role of parent/carers is vital to the success of this policy for individual pupils. With the regular co-operation of adults within the family group, the strategy will be effective in helping to raise the achievement of individuals.

The main focus of homework will be English and Maths. Science and other subjects will be included within the strategy as pupils move through the school, but the primary focus will always be Maths and English.

Homework should consist of a range of activities and should not be seen as just formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults. Suitable homework activities could include:

- Parent/carers reading to the child as well as hearing them read.
- Other related English activities, i.e. spelling, phonics, SPAG or sentence work.
- Number games and tasks, times tables practice and more formal written questions for older pupils.
- Regular visits to the library to either select leisure materials or to enable research in connection with a topic/project.

As a child matures, a greater emphasis should be placed on:

- Researching information.
- Reading in advance as preparation for a lesson.
- Preparation for oral presentations.

- More traditional written assignments.
- Practical numeracy tasks, e.g. measuring, mental calculation, collecting information.
- Developing understanding and use of key technical vocabulary across all subjects.

Pupils of all ages at St Mary's are set homework. Expectations are explained to parents at the Meet the Teacher session at the beginning of the school year. Homework is not considered optional, we expect every pupil to complete the assignments set.

Recommended time allocation

Reception - Reading 5-10 minutes a day,

Year 1 + 2 - Reading / Spellings -10 minutes a day.
English and Maths - 20 minutes a week

Year 3 + 4 - Reading / Spellings - 10 minutes a day
English and Maths - 40 minutes -1 hour week. Occasional assignments set for other subject areas.

Year 5 + 6 - Reading 15 - 20 minutes a day
English and Maths 1.5 - 2.5 hours a week. Regular weekly schedule to include Maths and English tasks as well as activities relating to the wider curriculum.

Suggested Tasks

- When homework other than reading is set, pupils still need to include the daily reading routine, reading either to themselves or to others.
- When setting homework tasks the teacher will try to ensure that it is manageable within the given time for both the pupil and the parent/carer.
- Teachers will be responsible for the allocation of homework tasks and should ensure that they follow a regular pattern.
- A teacher may allow more than one evening for some homework activities to be completed, thus allowing children who undertake after school activities time to complete the given task.

The role of parents/carers in supporting pupils

It is the school's expectation that:

- All parents will support the homework policy (and agree to do so by signing the Home School Agreement).
- Wherever possible parents will provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework or help pupils to locate other places where homework can be done.
- Parents will make it clear that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help in their child's learning.
- Parents will encourage their children and praise them.

ICT

Homework is set using our Online Platform Seesaw. Pupils have the option to complete homework digitally or upload a photo of written work. Children who do not have access to a device at home should not be disadvantaged. When necessary, arrangements will be made to have homework printed and sent home as a paper pack.

Feedback for pupils from parent/carers and teachers

It is important that pupils receive feedback on the tasks that they have undertaken as part of homework. The nature of this feedback will vary depending upon the activity in question, however teachers will not be expected to provide written responses for every piece of work.

Appropriate feedback, which helps to maintain pupil's motivation, could include:

- Instant feedback from the adult working with the child at home. (E.g. the correction of pupil's reading).
- Oral comments during class work. (Discussion work based on set homework).

- Test results for spelling or tables.
- Self marking of assignments or reviewing their work in small groups.
- Recognition of pupils' achievement by rewarding them with house points and when appropriate through the Award of the Week.

Special Educational Needs

Whilst every effort should be taken for pupils to do as much in common with their peers, it may be appropriate for them to have additional / alternative tasks as outlined in their I.E.P. and agreed between the SENDCo and class teacher.