

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

Date: September 2016

Review Date: Autumn 2017

Person Responsible: Miss M Jackson

Approved by the Governors:

Definition of Homework

Any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson times, either on their own or with parents or carers.

Homework makes the greatest contribution to learning when:

- It is planned and structured to support progress in learning.
- It is consistently applied across the school.
- Everyone knows what to expect each week (teachers, children and parents)
- Everyone is clear about the task set.
- There are high expectations of pupils in completing the homework.
- There is clear and prompt feedback.
- There is regular monitoring and evaluation to check that it is the best support for learning.

If parents have concerns, please write in the child's contact book or see the class teacher.

The Purpose of Homework

- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly in English and Maths.
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibilities.
- To provide opportunities for parents/guardians, pupils and the school to work in partnership.
- To extend and improve the quality of learning experiences offered to parents.
- To encourage children to develop long-term strategies for future needs.
- To provide older children with opportunities to develop the skills of independent learning and prepare them for secondary transfer.

Reading

At St Mary's, reading is given on a regular basis to all children from Year R upwards. We believe in shared reading, i.e. reading with a parent. We believe in the care and love of books. A reading book goes home every night as does the Reading Diary (Contact Book). Please help the school by asking the children for their diary and making some time available to read, even if it is the same book. Children sometimes like to read the same book again and again. If the book is too hard or too easy, the place to comment is in the diary. Reading should be signed by an adult after hearing the child read.

Maths/ English

Year R children will take home Number games one day each week and one sheet of Phonics/ Language work. From Year 1 upwards, children are asked to prepare for a weekly spelling test and a weekly number test. In the Juniors, Maths and English work will be set. This will follow up work in class or may be for revision purposes.

Other Homework

Research /project work may also be set in the Juniors. (Finding out about topics)

- preparing oral presentations.
- more traditional written assignments.
- Maths problem solving exercises/Mathletics
- visit to a library, historical building or museum.
- practising computer skills when possible.

Children may also take home work relating to other subject areas such as Science and RE.

Parents are invited to provide any feedback that will help us to improve the sharing of the curriculum between home and school. Homework will consolidate the work children are doing in lessons and by supporting the child in this activity parents will be able to follow their child's learning journey.

Homework is checked by the teacher, or on occasions the children mark their own work, with explanation from the teacher, as part of a whole class lesson. Research work is marked / dated and graded by the class teacher.

If homework is not set, reading is expected. Children may do some research to develop their skills in independent learning.

Parents should use the reading diary books as a means of contact.

To ensure that parents and carers are treated as partners in their child's learning, we will endeavour at St Mary's to allow parents a clear understanding of the curriculum their child is provided with by inviting parents to attend out of school curriculum talks and workshops. We would expect homework to feature in Parents' Evening consultations with the teacher.

We would expect parents to have a full understanding of Literacy and Numeracy as well as the broader curriculum.

We expect parents to provide a peaceful, suitable place for homework to be completed alone. Younger children should work with an adult. Homework should be checked when completed by an adult, and time spent on homework should be monitored in accordance with the times set out below. We believe parents should value homework and support the school in exploring how this can help the child's learning.

Parents must encourage children and praise good work. Parents should expect deadlines and check they are met. If parents do not wish homework to be set and cannot support the process, a letter must be sent to the teacher.

Homework will only be successful if home and school work together.

Recommended time allocation for homework

Year 1 and 2

1 hour per week
Reading/ spelling, other literacy work and number work
Plus Mathematics-short periods in the week

Year 3 and 4

1 ½ hours per week
Reading, spellings and times tables practice.
Literacy - Year 3 children to complete their book review diary linked to their current reading book.
Year 4 children to complete grammar activity linked to their reading book.
Numeracy- Mathematics and/ or paper activity.
Occasional assignments in other subjects.

Year 5 and 6

2 hours per week.
Daily reading, spelling and times table practice.
Literacy- One activity per week linked to grammar or Literacy lessons.
Numeracy- Mathematics and/ or paper activity.
Half-termly topic based tasks/ activities linked to the wider curriculum.