



St Mary's RC Primary School

Homework Policy

What are the aims of this policy?

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

What is the purpose of homework?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding particularly in English and Maths.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

What is the role of the school?

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.

What is the role of the teaching staff?

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.

What is the role of the parent?

- To decide how much homework they wish their child to complete once school has set the homework.
- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Homework in Key Stage 1

What type of work will my child get?

Each child will receive a 'Learning Log' weekly. This will include a Speaking and Listening Activity, Literacy Skills Homework, Topic based research, RE Links and Maths Games or Work.

Parents/Carers are expected to initial each box that the child completes. If a parent or carer wishes there is a space to write an appropriate comment. Homework will be given out on a Thursday and is due back in school by the following Tuesday.

The Learning Log will be differentiated for each year group – Rec, Year 1 and Year 2.

Reception pupils will be expected to complete their homework and spend approximately 10 minutes each day reading at home.

Year 1 pupils will be expected to complete their homework and spend approximately 15 minutes each day reading at home.

Year 2 pupils will be expected to complete their homework and spend approximately 15-20 minutes each day reading at home.

Homework in Key Stage 2

Class 2

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged. The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be Maths and English however children will be presented with a Learning Log that includes varied activities linked to the curriculum.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the story that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning of the text. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Again the children have a reading record that can be signed by a parent or carer. Children in Key Stage 2 are responsible for handing their book in to be changed during the week.

English

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be based on spelling or punctuation. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing or possibly a speaking and listening task. A child may be asked to talk to an adult regarding a forthcoming writing task.

Maths

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 10. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions.

Other Areas

Work could be linked to any other curriculum area, RE, Science, Geography, History and so on. It could take many forms, preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview. The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas.

Creative Homework

This homework is open ended and allows them to work on a creative project. The homework is often entered into a classroom competition. Creative homework is set periodically throughout the year.

Class 3

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the story that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning of the text. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Again the children have a reading record that can be signed by a parent or carer. Children in Key Stage 2 are responsible for handing their book in to be changed during the week. In Class 3 Reading Books will be changed on Mondays and Thursdays. Children will be encouraged to read often at home and swap their books on a regular basis.

English

Children will be given a task to complete based on the current literacy unit being taught in class. This could include creating characters, writing their own stories, recounts or even researching aspects of the unit.

Maths

Children will be given an activity based on the focus for that week. It will often be a number based task but could also include investigating the area around the skills being taught. All pupils will need to learn their multiplication tables.

R.E.

The children will be given a question based on the week's RE and Class Worship sessions.

Spelling

Children will be given a list of spelling based on the Year 5/6 spelling list.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 3 and 4	15 minutes reading, 5x per week. 30 minutes per week on other tasks.
Year 5 and 6	15 minutes reading, 5 x per week >30 minutes per week on other tasks.

When will homework be set?

To help parents and children all homework will be set on **Thursday** and be due in on the following **Tuesday**.

Teachers will have different systems for handing in homework and they will tell parents and children about this at the beginning of the year.

If parents need advice on how to support their children with homework then they can talk to the class teacher and the class Teaching Assistants.

Homework Club

School operates a Homework Club on Thursday nights. The club is an opportunity for children to attend after school and work on their homework and other activities with a qualified teacher.

The club has limited places and will be offered to different year groups each half term. Places will be given on a first come first served basis and once a child accepts a place in the club they are expected to attend each of their blocked sessions.

Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?

Children who take part in specialised lessons such as Booster Classes may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the work being done.

Additionally children who work in a one to one situation with teaching assistants will sometimes be given extra homework.

In both cases, children should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents have been told otherwise.

If the child is finding they have too much work then parents should speak to the child's teacher.

What about children who don't complete homework?

School operates an 'opt in or opt out' policy regarding homework. Recent surveys showed that parents are split in terms of homework. Around 50% wanted homework to be set regularly and for there to be plenty for the

children to complete, the other 50% were happy with what was being set or would prefer no homework at all.

School will set homework each week. Each family can make the decision to opt in to doing homework or to opt out of it. Teachers will not 'chase' children for homework but praise and rewards will be given to children who do complete work.

What if a child says they have received no homework?

If there is any reason why a child will not receive homework then the teacher will inform parents in a letter. If parents have not received a letter then they should check with the child's teacher. There may be occasions if the teacher is away that the homework is not set but we will try to avoid that happening.

How will the homework be marked?

Teachers and Teaching Assistants will mark children's homework in a variety of ways but always according to the schools marking policy. Generally the work will be initialled by the teacher to show they have marked it. Sometimes the work will be 'quality marked' by a teacher. This is when a piece of work is marked in detail and comments about future progress are added to the work. On other occasions the work may be marked orally with the child or the class and there will not be evidence from the teacher in the child's book. Teachers generally will not mark homework that is handed in late.

Policy date - September 2016



With Jesus beside us we love, learn and grow together.

