



*"I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)*

*St Mary's is a Catholic Primary School.*

*We place our children at the heart of all we do, inspired by the love, life and teachings of Jesus and the Catholic Christian Church.*

### **Homework Policy**

This policy has been reviewed in the light of comments retrieved from parental questionnaires and parental consultations.

We believe homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in numeracy, literacy and other curriculum areas, helps raise the level of achievement of individual pupils, provides opportunities for parents and children to work together and, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school.

We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school which is reflected in the Home School Agreement.

We recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time'.

### **THE AIMS OF HOMEWORK**

The purpose of homework at St Mary's School is -

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents. As a Catholic School we believe Education is a moral transaction between one generation and the next. It takes place in communities, the school, the home and the parish.

The purpose of homework in Key Stage 2 is -

- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own.
- To consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;

- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- To prepare them for the transfer to Secondary school
- To extend their learning and exploit the resource for learning at home. We believe parents are the first and foremost educators of their children.

### **AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK**

The following guidelines give the school's expectations about the amount of time children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 should spend on homework.

Reception	-	approximately 10 minutes a day
Class 1 & 2	-	approximately 1 hour a week
Class 3 & 4	-	1.1/2 hours a week
Class 5 & 6	-	2.1/2 hours a week

These times include the government recommendations that all children should read daily either with an adult or silently by themselves.

### **TYPES OF HOMEWORK**

Reception	-	<p>To read every night with an adult. (Reading books changed Monday, Wednesday and Friday.) From the Spring Term high frequency sight words to be practised at home. Phonics mats to be practised at home. Home learning challenges set weekly and uploaded to the Interactive Learning Diary</p>
Year 1	-	<p>To read every night with an adult. Phonics mats to be practised at home. Tricky words and high frequency words linked to Phonic Phases Homework assignments might include Maths games or finding out information by talking to their families about other curriculum areas. ( Homework set on a Friday to be completed by Tuesday)</p>
Year 2	-	<p>Daily reading with an adult. English and Maths Occasionally finding out information by talking to their families about other curriculum areas. Phonics mats to be practised at home. Tricky words and high frequency words linked to Phonic Phases (Homework set on a Monday to be handed in on a Friday).</p>
Year 3	-	<p>Daily reading. Learning tables. English and Maths assignment every week. Finding out about other curriculum areas.</p>

(Homework set on a Friday to be handed in the following Friday)

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| Year 4 | - | Daily reading and when appropriate writing book reviews. Reinforcing and consolidating Literacy and Numeracy tasks. Finding out about other curriculum areas.<br>(Homework set Friday to be handed in on Friday.)  |
| Year 5 | - | Daily reading (minimum 15/20 minutes)<br>Learning spelling and multiplication tables.<br>Reinforcing and consolidating English and Maths tasks through cross curricular projects.<br>(Homework set for the topic, to be handed in/progress shown on a Friday.) |
| Year 6 | - | Daily reading (minimum 15/20 minutes)<br>Learning spelling and multiplication<br>Reinforcing and consolidating English, Maths and other cross-curricular topic tasks<br>(Homework set on a Tuesday to be handed in on Monday.)                                 |

The amount of homework increases as the pupils get older so the range of tasks set for homework takes this into account. There will be feedback for pupils on all homework assignments in a form appropriate to the task. Written homework assignments are marked in line with the school's marking policy.

Pupils who consistently do not complete homework assignments will be monitored and parents informed.

### **THE ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS**

New parents will be given clear guidance of the school's homework policy at their induction meeting in July. Parents will be given advice on reading with their children at the beginning of the school year in September.

Parents are asked to:

- Ensure their child/ren reads every day and either the parent or child records this in the Reading Record.
- Provide wherever possible a quiet place in which pupils can do their homework either alone or with the help of an adult.
- Support the school's homework policy
- Continue to encourage and praise their children when they have completed their homework.
- Keep the school informed of any problems their child may be experiencing with homework assignments.
- If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the headteacher.
- Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents should contact the governing body.

## **INCLUSION AND HOMEWORK**

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the record of special needs, we refer to those pupils' Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

## **USE OF ICT**

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website is regularly being updated which provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

We discourage children from bringing removable media such as usb flashdrives into school, because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher might suggest that a child's work is e-mailed to the teacher at school using the class e-mail or uploaded to their Showbie account.

## **MONITORING & EVALUATING**

The class teacher is responsible for monitoring homework ensuring that there is a balance and regular pattern of work set which links with their planning. Details of when homework will be carried out will be included in the curriculum letters to parents at the beginning of each term.

The Head Teacher is the named person responsible for ensuring that homework is planned, co-ordinated and manageable throughout the school.

Policy Reviewed: January 2016

Due to be reviewed January 2018



