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Homework Policy

Contents

	Page
Introduction	2
Purpose	2
Practice	2
Responsibilities	3
Communication	3
Expectations	3 - 4

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St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Homework Policy

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important as it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home the tasks covered in class, and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will support them throughout their school and adult life.

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, homework is defined as out of school tasks set for children as an extension of their class work. Homework is for practice, preparation and reinforcement.

Purpose

- to encourage independent learning skills
- to create additional time for structured learning
- to bridge the gap between home and school
- to develop a more effective partnership between school and parents

Practice

- The setting of homework for children will be according to the homework timetable. The frequency and length of the tasks will vary according to the age and ability of the child, and according to the programme of work at the time.
- Tasks may include, amongst others, reading and spelling, maths activities - including the learning of tables, extension of work begun in school, additional research, projects, collecting information, investigations.
- Homework will be set for clearly defined purposes, based on the learning within the class.
- Children will be expected to apply the same high standards to homework as they would to class work.
- Homework in the form of worksheets, work books or text books will not be provided for absent children; for example, children who are out of school for a family holiday or for periods of sickness. If a child wishes to undertake additional work, we will encourage them to do personal research on the topics covered within the class.
- Homework is monitored; if a child **regularly** fails to return homework or if homework is consistently handed in late discussions will be held with the child's parents to ascertain the reasons and what can be done to support the child in the completion of the homework tasks. On occasions, the completion of a Homework task will not be possible due to other commitments; this is recognised and will be accepted.
- Homework should not impact negatively on family life.

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Responsibilities

- **Children are responsible** for collecting, completing and returning their homework on time.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children have completed their homework satisfactorily and to the required standard.
- Teachers are responsible for setting and marking homework on a regular basis in accordance with the homework timetable.

Communication

- Homework will be explained to the children and where appropriate additional information will be given to the parents including information on duration and deadlines. Homework will be given to children on a Thursday and will need to be handed in by the following Tuesday
- This policy can be distributed to parents on request, along with a homework timetable at the beginning of each school year
- Each child will have a communication book that can be used to write notes and information between home and school.
- The class teacher is available to discuss concerns parents may have regarding homework.

Homework Timetable Expectations

Year	Daily tasks Approximate time per day	Weekly Homework task Approximate time per week
Reception	Library books are sent home for parents / carers to read to their children on a daily basis. When appropriate reading books are sent home for children to share and read to their adult.	
Year 1	Daily reading 10 minutes <i>Your child should be read to, as well as read with.</i> Spellings	Possible activities: Topic work, Maths, English 20 mins. (Homework set must alternate weekly between maths and a piece of topic / English) Homework will be given to the children on Thursday and will need to be returned by the following Tuesday . Take 10 for Big Write Optional use of Maths Whizz (online Maths tutor)
Year 2	Daily reading 10 minutes <i>Your child should be read to, as well as read with.</i> Spellings	Possible activities: Topic work, Maths, English 20 mins. (Homework set must alternate weekly between maths and a piece of topic / English) Homework will be given to the children on Thursday and will need to be returned by the following Tuesday . Take 10 for Big Write Optional use of Maths Whizz (online Maths tutor)
Year 3	Daily reading 15 minutes <i>Your child should be read to, as well as read with. Independent reading of a</i>	Possible activities: Topic work, Maths, English 30 mins. (Homework set must alternate weekly between maths and a piece of topic / English)

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	<p><i>variety of texts should also be encouraged.</i></p> <p>Spellings</p>	<p>Homework will be given to the children on Thursday and will need to be returned by the following Tuesday.</p> <p>Take 10 for Big Write</p> <p>Optional use of Maths Whizz (online Maths tutor)</p>
Year 4	<p>Daily reading 15 minutes <i>Your child should be read to, as well as read with. Independent reading of a variety of texts should also be encouraged.</i></p> <p>Spellings</p>	<p>Possible activities: Topic work, Maths, English 30 – 40 mins. (Homework set must alternate weekly between maths and a piece of topic / English)</p> <p>Homework will be given to the children on Thursday and will need to be returned by the following Tuesday.</p> <p>Take 10 for Big Write</p> <p>Optional use of Maths Whizz (online Maths tutor)</p>
Year 5	<p>Daily reading 15 - 20 minutes <i>Your child should be read to, as well as read with. Independent reading of a variety of texts should also be encouraged.</i></p> <p>Spellings</p>	<p>Possible activities: Maths and English, 30 – 40 mins. (Children will receive 2 pieces of homework per week)</p> <p>Homework will be given to the children on Thursday and will need to be returned by the following Tuesday.</p> <p>Take 10 for Big Write</p> <p>Optional use of Maths Whizz (online Maths tutor)</p>
Year 6	<p>Daily reading 15 - 20 minutes <i>Your child should be read to, as well as read with. Independent reading of a variety of texts should also be encouraged.</i></p> <p>Spellings</p>	<p>Possible activities: Maths and English, 40 – 50 mins. (Children will receive 2 pieces of homework per week, one of which will be Maths and one that will be English.)</p> <p>Homework will be given to the children on Thursday and will need to be returned by the following Tuesday.</p> <p>Take 10 for Big Write</p> <p>Optional use of Maths Whizz (online Maths tutor)</p>

Homework and longer homework projects on other subjects may be given on occasions to link with the current learning.

**A desire to learn is a life skill which we hope to engender within our pupils.
This cannot be achieved without parental support.**