

St Mary & St Paul's C of E Primary School



Homework policy.

Life in all its fullness through Learning and Love

'Homework is important at all stages in a child's education... and extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximum effect.' Ofsted annual report.

At St Mary & St Paul's C of E Primary school we recognise the vital role which well organised homework can play by raising standards of achievement by pupils of all ages.

By the term 'homework', this policy refers to anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to requests or guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are supporting their learning in a very valuable way.

Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government makes clear its commitment to homework, it regards it as an essential part of good education. We believe that homework can help to make links in pupils' learning and to enable them to become lifelong learners, not simply regarding learning as something which goes on at school.

We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of partnership and cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in family and leisure activities, and participating in various clubs and organisations which play an important part in children's lives. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of our homework policy are:

- to ensure a consistent approach to the use of homework across the school;
- to inform parents and carers about our approach to homework and to promote partnership and co-operation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to help to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of independent learners;

- to help children to understand that the world of learning extends beyond the school, and to make links between their experiences in school and those gained outside school;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons; to help children develop good work habits for the future

The purpose of homework.

- + to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents.
- + to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- + exploiting resources for learning of all kinds at home.
- + extend school learning, eg through additional reading.
- + encouraging the pupils as they get older to develop confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of Secondary school.

Key stage 1 homework

Developing a partnership with parents and involving them actively in children's learning is the key purpose.

Short activities of different kinds – simple games, learning spellings, number facts and of course reading together. These provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

Key stage 2 homework.

As children get older the skill of independent learning becomes increasingly the aim of homework activities although the partnership between parents and the school is also still vital. By the time children reach year 6 their homework programme covers a wider range of tasks with regular schedules anticipating that their transition to secondary education is as smooth as possible.

Regular reading to and with carers is vital. The parents receive a home/ school reading record which contains suggestions for reading with their child and contains details of their reading book. Children are expected to complete a reading journal based around the books that they have read.

Children have weekly spellings to learn with the aim of applying them to their written work in school.

Children are expected to know their multiplication tables to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. Children may also receive more challenging investigations.

All children are expected to complete their homework and if it is not handed in at the required time, children are expected to stay in at breaktime to complete it.

Children with special needs.

Children are set homework which gives plenty of opportunity for pupils to succeed and activities that are varied.

The planning of homework.

Normally the class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for pupils on a day to day basis.

We have found that a familiar routine is helpful for children, teachers and parents.

The role of parents.

We encourage parents to:

- +Provide a reasonably peaceful and suitable place in which children can do their homework. This could be alone, or for younger children in partnership with an adult
- +Make it clear to their children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- +Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.

Monitoring and evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy is evaluated by the head teacher through informal discussions with staff and checking samples of homework diaries and seeing how successfully assignments are being completed. This is an on going process.

This revised policy was presented to the governors during the autumn term of 2023 and will be fully reviewed in line with school guidance in 2 years time.

Signed : _____

Date : _____

