

HOMEWORK POLICY

Name of School:	St Mary's CofE Primary School
Date of Policy:	December 2020
Member of Staff Responsible:	Curriculum Leader
Review Date:	December 2023
Consultation:	This policy has been drawn up by the staff and governors at St Mary's CofE School following guidance from the DfE.

Ethos Statement:

Our school is committed to bringing out the best in each other so that every member of the school community can know 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). Through learning of the teachings of Jesus, we believe that our children can explore and develop their understanding of Core Christian values as markers and guides for their own lives. We aim for the school's Core Christian values to inform and influence our pupils' moral compass and allow them to enjoy 'life in all its fullness'. These values are known as the 'Sunshine 6'. They are: Forgiveness, Perseverance, Honesty, Compassion, Courage and Respect.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

- 2.1 Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper 'Excellence in Schools', in which homework was described as 'an essential part of good education'. 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 cooperation between teachers and parents. 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.
- 2.2.1 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 the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. 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 encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:
- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
 - to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
 - to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
 - 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 practice skills taught in lessons;
 - to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Types of homework

- 4.1 Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.
- 4.2 We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1, we give children books to take home and read with their parents. We give guidance to parents on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings or mathematical tables as part of their homework. Sometimes, we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in the history topic on toys, we ask children to find out what toys were popular when their grandparents were young, and, if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other children. Sometimes, we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, and occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school, when we believe that they could benefit from spending further time on it. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library, as well as the internet.
- 4.3 At Key Stage 2, we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined in paragraph 4.2, but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set literacy and numeracy homework routinely each week, and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.
- 4.4 Across all key stages, teachers might make use of online learning resources which children have access to, e.g. MyMaths. Children who do not have access to the internet will be given alternative 'paper' homework.
- 4.5 Homework is marked according to the general school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.
- 4.6 We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

5 Amount of homework

- 5.1 As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. We expect children in Key Stage 1 to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent. We expect children in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 1.5 hours per week on homework, and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 2.5 hours per week. This is in line with the DfE guidelines which are available to view at: www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoollearninganddevelopment/SchoolLife/DG_179508. **This is also reflected in our Homework Ladder which is at the end of the policy.**

6 Inclusion and homework

- 6.1 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 register 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.

7 The role of parents

- 7.1 Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it is necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.
- 7.2 If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher (either personally or through the messaging facility on Moodle). If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. 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.
- 7.3 Advice and guidance on how parents can support homework is available to download from the DfE at:
www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00142-2010

8 Use of ICT

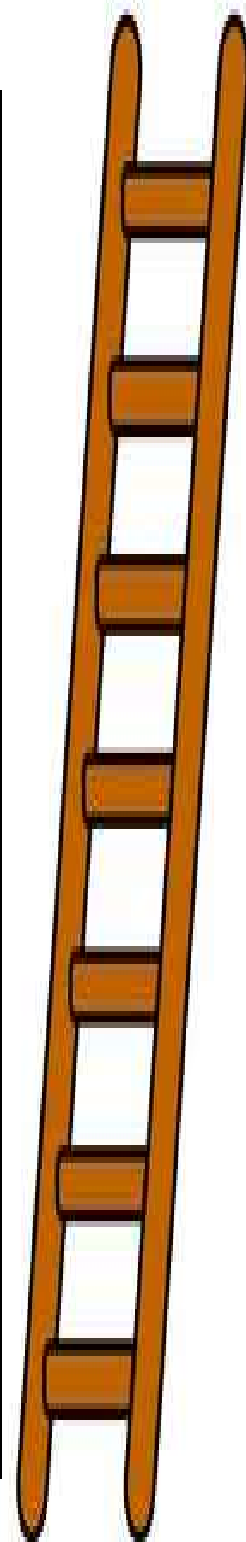
- 8.1 The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or 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.
- 8.2 There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website (www.stmryb29.bham.sch.uk) provides links to some sites which can support children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the internet.
- 8.3 The school works hard to ensure that online learning materials used in school are also available for home use. We currently offer all children free access to a learning resources called MyMaths. Any questions about these resources should be directed to the school's ICT co-ordinator.
- 8.4.1 Children are prohibited from bringing work into school on external drives without the permission of the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher because of the risk of viruses.

9 Monitoring and review

- 9.1 The Senior Management Team is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. Some time will be allocated to inspect samples of the children's work and of the teachers' planning.
- 9.2 It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Parents complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent.

St Mary's CE Primary School **The Homework Ladder**

<p>YEAR 6 (Maximum 'Set' Homework = 2.5 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading (5 x 20mins per week) • Maths task from Year Group Text Book (30 minutes per week) • Grammar task from revision guide. (20 minutes per week) • Spellings – sent home on Thursday/Friday for a test on Monday. 5 words to learn and an investigation on the pattern/rule. • Revision work – Spring Term
<p>YEAR 5 (Maximum 'Set' Homework = 2.5 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading (5 x 20mins per week) – child to complete reading journal at least once a week • Maths task from Year Group Text Book (30 minutes per week) • Spellings – sent home on Thursday/Friday for a test on Monday. 5 words to learn and an investigation on the pattern/rule.
<p>YEAR 4 (Maximum 'Set' Homework = 1.5 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading (4 x 20mins per week) – child to complete reading record once each week • Maths task from Year Group Text Book (20 minutes per week) • Spellings – sent home on Thursday/Friday for a test on Monday. 5 words to learn and an investigation on the pattern/rule .
<p>YEAR 3 (Maximum 'Set' Homework = 1.5 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading (4 x 20mins per week) – child to complete reading record once each week • Maths task from Year Group Text Book (20 minutes per week) • Spellings – sent home on Thursday/Friday for a test on Monday. 5 words to learn and an investigation on the pattern/rule.
<p>YEAR 2 (Maximum 'Set' Homework = 1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared reading and discussion (3 x 10mins per week) - shared completion of reading record • Maths task from Year Group Text Book (20 minutes per week) • Spellings – sent home on Thursday/Friday for a test on Monday. 5 words to learn and an investigation on the pattern/rule.
<p>YEAR 1 (Maximum 'Set' Homework = 1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared reading and discussion (3 x 10mins per week) - parents should complete record • Maths task which can be a written or from Year Group Text Book (20 minutes per week) • Spelling & Keywords practise – Weekly
<p>YEAR R (Maximum 'Set' Homework = 1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Keywords practice – daily • Maths activity • Phonic activity and spelling challenge Maths challenges (20 minutes per week) and mymaths.



In addition, all classes may be set a project related to the classes current learning journey.

NB: The majority of homework will be sent out on a Friday (returned following Thursday). Some classes will give out additional homework Monday or Tuesday.