



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

Loving, Laughing and Learning in the Light of the Lord

A good well-managed homework programme helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.

Effective Homework

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 help throughout their time at school and adult life.

Recommended time for Homework

Foundation Stage – Reading, phonics and number facts.

Years 1 and 2 - Reading, spelling, number facts and a short literacy task (e.g. writing a sentence for each spelling in year 1 or a comprehension or writing task in year 2)

Years 3 and 4 – Reading, spellings, number facts and a literacy or numeracy task linked to relevant class work.

Years 5 and 6 – Regular weekly schedule as in previous years but increasing in Year 6 to include weekly literacy and numeracy tasks.

Staff are expected to work towards this aim by:

-  Providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate learning in class.
-  Ensure the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually according to their ability.
-  Communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be studied and developed and any individual targets which have been negotiated.

Pupils are expected to work towards this aim by:

-  Making full use of all opportunities they are presented with.

- ✎ Tackling home tasks promptly and with positive attitude.
- ✎ Taking pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.
- ✎ Being organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school.
- ✎ Taking responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

Parents are expected to work towards school aims by:

- ✎ Providing suitable quiet surroundings i.e. not in front of the television.
- ✎ Encouraging younger family members to play quieter games if in the same room.
- ✎ Encouraging children to persevere with a task even if it seems daunting at first and giving support if necessary.
- ✎ Giving due importance to non-written tasks such as hearing reading and assisting in the learning of times tables and weekly spellings.
- ✎ Keeping the staff informed of any changes in the child's circumstances which may affect their work.
- ✎ Children with SEN will have their IEP targets to work on at home and it will be left to the teacher's discretion as to suitable, differentiation or additional tasks that will be set to this.

It is expected that homework is marked and feedback given to the children. If children have made the effort to complete homework tasks then it is important that this is marked and placed in an appropriate place i.e. folder, or workbook or returned home.

Homework tasks should be clearly explained to the children and where possible, explanations sent home for parents to support their child.

When homework is not completed for any length of time, or without due care and attention, staff will initially speak to individual children and then, if necessary, bring this to the attention of the parents.

January 2015

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