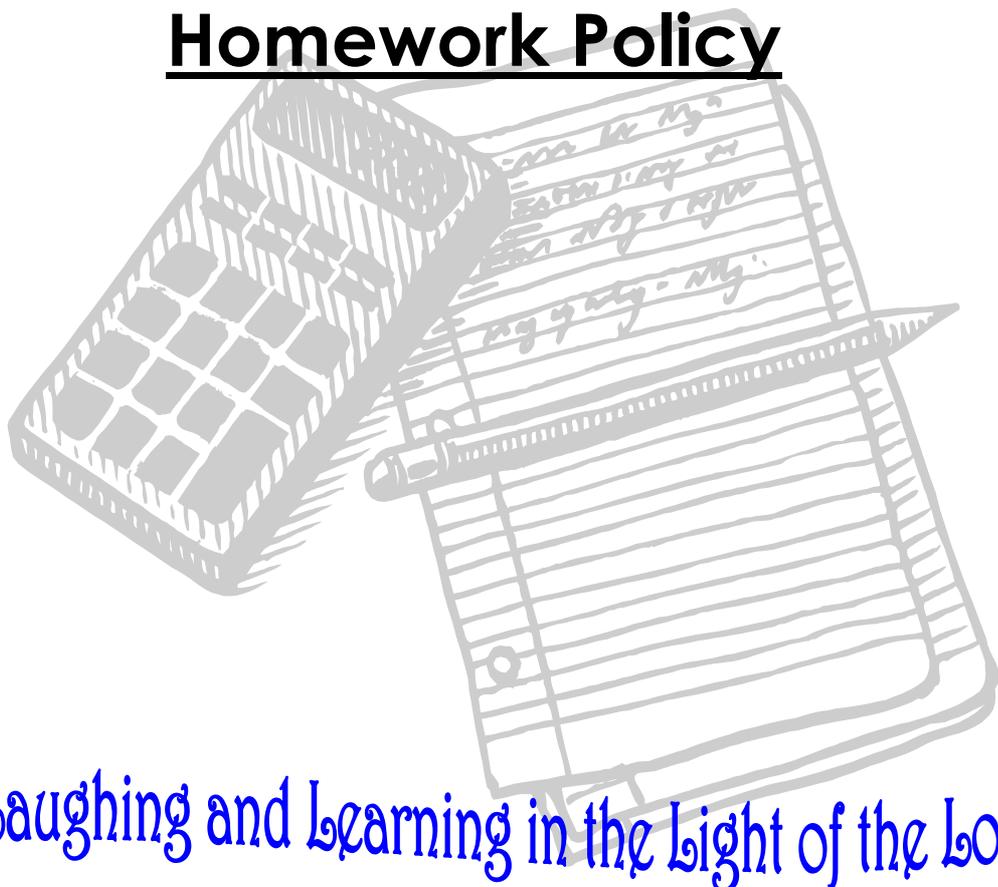




St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy



Loving, Laughing and Learning in the Light of the Lord

Homework Policy:

In order for pupils to attain the highest standards, whether that be spiritual, moral, social, cultural or academic, the governors and staff at St Mary's Catholic Primary School recognise the importance of an active educational partnership between home and school.

Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Aims and Objectives:

Regular and well planned homework can:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future
- encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance
- help parents gain insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school
- provide opportunities for individualised work and develop skills for independent learning
- Provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.

Effective Homework

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School we seek to balance the benefits of well targeted homework with the importance of family time and potential wider opportunities outside school. For this reason, homework will only be set where it is appropriate and complements learning in school.

The most important activity that a primary aged child can do at home with family is read. We therefore encourage parents to make this a priority throughout the years their child is with us. Reading a wide range of texts and sharing books with family members builds a rich vocabulary and a joy of language. This will support a child's learning both in school and throughout life.

Other aspects of the curriculum require knowledge of learned facts. This kind of learning is best done little and often. For that reason parents will be asked to complement the learning in school by practising certain aspects of the curriculum at home. The emphasis must always be little and often and is best done through the use of games or other fun activities.

There may also be occasions when specific tasks are set to build on learning in class. There is no set timetable for this, it is the decision of the individual staff member to decide when and for whom such homework should be set. At all times the basic principles of relevance and appropriateness must be followed.

Homework complements the work done in school and as such is part of the home/school partnership. To maximise the benefits:

Staff are expected to:

-  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.
-  Communicate with parents and keep them informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be studied and developed and any individual targets which have been negotiated.
-  Provide targeted homework tasks that support each child's learning.

Pupils are expected to:

-  Make full use of all opportunities they are presented with.
-  Tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude.
-  Take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.
-  Be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school or at home.
-  Where necessary, take responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

Parents are expected to work towards school aims by:

-  Provide suitable quiet surroundings i.e. not in front of the television.
-  Encourage younger family members to play quieter games if in the same room.
-  Encourage children to persevere with a task even if it seems daunting at first, giving support if necessary.
-  Give due importance to non-written tasks such as hearing reading and assisting in the learning of times tables and weekly spellings.
-  Keep the staff informed of any changes in the child's circumstances which may affect their work.

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 returned to the child.

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.

March 2018

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