

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Isleworth

Homework POLICY



This HOMEWORK POLICY has been adopted in spring 2019 and will be reviewed in the spring of 2021.

School Mission Statement

Our school family at St Mary's wants this to be a safe, caring, creative and happy place, where we all have a fair chance to learn and grow together and to do the best we can.

We do this by knowing and loving Jesus more every day and by following his teaching in a joyful way.

Our aim as a school is to educate the whole person in the light of Christ's teachings, giving all an equal opportunity to do the best they can. This Policy sets out how the Homework we set for children balances the need to continue learning at home whilst having opportunities to take part in after school clubs and family activities.

1.1 We value the support of parents/carers. We recognise that parents are the 'first educators' of their children and we believe that learning is a continuous process which is not to be confined to academic subjects.

1.2 We will continue to set homework but refocus the activities onto key knowledge needed to be literate and numerate; we set homework to help children develop their learning in reading and maths

1.3 We do this by ensuring that when homework is set it is not as a time filler but:

- a genuine opportunity for parents to engage with their child by sharing learning with them;
- a chance for children to practise skills and consolidate knowledge in reading and maths.

1.4 We recognise that homework is only one area that broadens a child's potential. Other interests and sports are encouraged and some are offered as after school clubs. We recognise that practice in any activity is key to consolidation and learning.

1.5 Homework has never been set during the holidays, the week before nor the week after the holidays, moving forward, homework will not be set in the weeks before or after half terms.

1.6 The completion of Homework will remain optional, teachers may encourage the children to complete the work.

1.7 Homework may not always be a written task.

1.8 We also recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning while still allowing 'down time' and a chance to learn other skills such as: cooking, learning to ride a bike, join a choir or learn a musical instrument, being an active member of a sports or dance clubs or youth organisation like Beavers, playing games, building

models, going swimming, painting and crafts, carrying out science experiments at home, completing jigsaws, visiting galleries, museums, places of interest and local libraries.

1.9 A breakdown of how homework is structured is provided below. Most of the homework is provided for completion over the course of a week. We hope that this helps homework fit around family lifestyles and commitments and the children’s other activities.

Reception	<p>After October half term: Children have a phonics book and new sounds and tricky words are added weekly. Once children start blending, they will bring home a reading book and a reading record which should be signed by parents once a week to say that their child has read at home. Children can read and share books with an adult every day. A library book will be sent home on a weekly basis (from October for Reception).</p> <p>When they are ready, Nursery will bring home a library book for you to share together.</p>
Key Stage One - Years 1 and 2	<p>Children will be given a list of spellings to learn each week which follow the phonics or spelling patterns taught in their groups or words linked to the curriculum. They will be encouraged to learn the pattern not only the individual words. They will be encouraged to use these words and words with the same spelling pattern in their writing. Children are expected to read daily for at least 10 minutes at home with an adult. The Home Reading Diary should be completed each time. Maths Passports can be supported at home (from the summer term in Y1).</p>

Key Stage 2 Year 3 to Year 6	<p>Children will be given a list of spellings to learn each week which follow the phonics or spelling patterns taught in their groups or words linked to the curriculum. They will be encouraged to learn the pattern not only the individual words. They will be encouraged to use these words and words with the same spelling pattern in their writing. Children are expected to read daily for between 15 minutes to half an hour, at home with an adult. Learning of multiplication facts (timetables) will be ongoing. Maths Passports can be supported at home.</p>
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2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- Delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to oversee the development of this policy, to ensure its implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

2.2 Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Decide if homework should be set and in broad terms what form that homework should take;
- Promote the agreed policy (this policy) by publishing it;
- Ensure that homework is built into teachers’ planning;
- Provide supportive guidance for parents (e.g. Curriculum Meetings, website information, Class Newsletters);
- Keep up to date with new developments and research with regard to homework;

2.3 Role of the Teachers

Teachers must:

- Integrate homework into their planning;
- Set homework in line with this policy;
- Explain when, what and how the work is to be done so that each child understands;

2.4 Role of Parents/Carers

Parents and Carers are asked to

- Place the onus for knowing what homework is set and for completing homework on their child
- Provide a suitable place in their home where their children can concentrate on their tasks;
- Establish a homework routine and provide materials like pens, pencils etc;
- Find time to work with their child or be at hand if a problem arises;
- Contact the school if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or if their child is having difficulties doing it

2.5 Role of Children

Children are asked to

- Complete their homework and hand it in on time;
- Listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them;
- Complete their homework using appropriate writing materials;
- Have a go at all their homework activities and let their teacher know if they experience any difficulties.

3.0 Feedback

- As now, homework will not be marked.

4.0 Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed every 2 years or when the need arises.

Views on homework from staff, parents/carers, pupils and governors will be collected.

Any suggestions for improvement should be made to the Head teacher.