

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

This policy has been written with reference to government guidelines (DfE) and the "Home-School Agreement" which is sent to parents/carers when their child starts Reception.

The policy will be subject to annual review. In reviewing the policy, note will be taken of the views of teachers and parents/carers.

The Department for Education recommends the following times for children to work at home: -
Key Stage One (Y1 & 2) - Up to one hour per week
Lower Key Two (Y3 & 4) - One hour a week- English and Maths homework
Upper Key Stage Two (Y5 & 6) - One hour and a half- English, Maths and Learning log occasionally.

Definition

Homework is defined as any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either independently or with parental support.

Aims

The specific aims of the School's Homework Policy are:

- To develop an effective partnership between school and parents/carers
- To involve parents/carers in their child's learning
- To consolidate and reinforce learning, especially in mathematics and english
- To encourage our children as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to work independently
- To ensure consistency of homework throughout the school

Type of Homework

There is great value in parents/carers and children working together and much of the homework set will require this involvement. At other times, especially as the children progress through the school, children may be required to work independently and for longer periods.

English:

Regular reading from a wide variety of materials is of paramount importance throughout the primary years. Emphasis is placed upon the majority of individual reading occurring at home where these skills can be practised with support on a one-to-one basis.

English homework will be given on set days and could include practising reading skills by reading aloud to an adult or developing comprehension skills such as written responses to a text.

It may also support and reinforce work covered during English lessons.

Maths:

Maths homework will be given once a week and may include something to learn (e.g. number bonds, shape names, times-tables) **or** a written piece of work that reinforces classwork.

Additionally there will be online resources that can be used to promote fluency, reasoning and problem solving eg: MyMaths and Times Tables Rockstars.

Other Subjects:

Homework may be linked to other curriculum subjects, such as science, history or geography topics. This could be developing research skills, gathering resources or project work. If children need additional activities they will be given on an individual basis.

Special Educational Needs

Teachers will always endeavour to ensure that the homework set matches the children's needs and ability.

Some children will benefit from special individual programmes of work, as outlined in their One Plan. It is also important, however, that they should do as much in common with other children as is possible.

Suggested Programme of Homework

Introduction

In setting a programme for homework, the school acknowledges the need for children to have quality time away from school to develop other interests and talents. In determining the homework programme it is therefore, the school's intention to set a sensible and manageable amount of homework that takes into account the other demands placed upon home life.

Homework Programme

Reception

English

This is given on set days for each reading group and will include a reading book with individual keywords to develop word recognition.

Supplementary reading material will be given as appropriate.

Maths

This will be given to support and reinforce work covered in class.

Years 1, 2 and 3

English homework, weekly spellings, weekly maths, occasional topic work and learning logs. Reading books will be sent home for children to read and return weekly. Children in Year 3 also have access to Reading Plus. Learning logs have been introduced throughout FS, KS1 and KS2. Children are given an area to research and discuss with families and they can present their findings in a variety of ways e.g. pictures, drawings, diagrams as well as written text.

Years 4, 5 and 6

English homework, spellings, maths homework with occasional topic work and learning logs. Reading books will be sent home for children to read and return weekly. Children are also to use Reading Plus at home. Learning logs have been introduced throughout FS, KS1 and KS2. Children are given an area to research and discuss with families and they can present their findings in a variety of ways e.g. pictures, drawings, diagrams as well as written text.

SCHOOL

- Teachers are responsible for marking homework promptly and with appropriate feedback. They will also ensure that homework is set at the stated times. (Refer to Academic Guidance Policy)
- All work given should be completed in a specific homework book/s and any loose worksheets should be kept/attached in the book also.
- A homework club for designated pupils operates throughout the academic year.
- If requested, the teacher may set homework for children absent for more than three days due to ill health.
- Teachers will not give homework when children are withdrawn for family holidays, but they may give homework during school holidays.

HOME

- Parents should make it clear to their children that they value homework and support the school's homework policy.
- Parents need to assist their children in practising skills such as reading aloud or letter formation.
- Parents should encourage their children to complete their homework on time and give praise where appropriate.
- Wherever possible parents should provide a quiet environment for homework.

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