

HOMEWORK POLICY

Context

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary Academy, we believe that homework should be a part of our partnership between home and school. We recognise that children who have spent a busy, structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities such as dancing, sports, music etc. However, we recognise the benefits of homework if this is introduced gradually over the primary years so that children develop as independent learners and are well prepared for secondary school. In addition, this allows children to explore their learning in different ways and present this in their own creative ways.

The Purpose of Homework

Homework should:

- ensure that children make the best possible progress and grow as confident independent learners;
- help parents to keep in touch with their children's learning and promote an effective partnership between home and school;
- promote a positive attitude to learning;
- give children the opportunity to practice and reinforce skills which have been taught at school;
- extend learning by giving opportunities to apply skills taught in school;
- prepare children for the demands and expectations of future phases of education;
- allow children to explore their learning in different ways and present this in their own creative ways.

The Aims of the Policy

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- ensure the needs of individual pupils are taken into account;
- ensure that pupils and parents know what to expect;
- extend and support the learning experience through reinforcement and revision;
- provide opportunities for parents to enjoy learning together.

Role of Pupils

Children are expected to:

- listen carefully to the instructions given;
- be responsible for taking their books and homework activities home and returning them on time;

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- take care and show respect for books and equipment borrowed from school;
- complete work at home to the best of their ability;
- bring their reading book and homework diary to school every day.

Role of Parents

We recognise that parents have a key role on supporting pupils' homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older but an interested adult is always important. Parents can support our policy by

- providing a suitable place for homework activities;
- provide basic resources e.g. pens, pencils, crayons, rulers, dictionaries, calculators;
- making it clear that they value homework and ensuring the books and equipment borrowed from school are treated with care;
- encouraging and praising children for their efforts;
- being actively involved in homework activities as appropriate;
- completing the reading diary/homework record as appropriate;
- not using homework as a threat or punishment;
- contacting the teacher if there are any concerns about homework.

Role of Teachers

The teacher will:

- set homework that is appropriate to the age and ability of each child;
- provide additional homework for pupils working on intervention strategies;
- give clear explanation of work to be completed at home;
- give a date for work to be returned;
- provide suitable guidance to parents where necessary;
- provide feedback to pupils - this may not always be through written comments;
- sometimes work will be discussed in lessons or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of the work. At times, children may mark their own work to reinforce their learning;
- give recognition and praise to children for their efforts;
- alert parents to any problems with homework.

The Type of Homework

At St Joseph's, we strongly believe that learning does not just mean completing worksheets and formal written exercises carried out without help from an adult. All children need to participate in purposeful, joint activities and tasks with an interested parent. Talking together, playing games,

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reading together, learning facts, browsing the internet or visiting the library to find out about current topics are important.

Everyday activities in the home can also support learning e.g. weighing food for dinner, carrying out money transactions when shopping etc. can reinforce mathematical skills. It is particularly important that parents spend time speaking and listening to their children and provide a good role model. This promotes effective communication so that children interact appropriately by listening with concentration, choose language appropriate to the situation and use good manners.

As children get older, learning at home will gradually become more varied and demanding. Although the emphasis will still be on parents and children working together, there should be increasing opportunities for children to develop the skills of independent learning. Much homework will be based on basic literacy and numeracy skills, often involving rote learning e.g. number facts, tables, spellings etc and regular reading sessions.

Homework task grids will be set at the beginning of each term for RE and their current topic. The expectation is that children will complete some of these tasks during the term.

In addition, weekly homework will be set by the teacher. All homework will be set every week on Friday and should be returned to school by Wednesday.

Any English or Maths work set will reflect the work which has been taught in class that week. The table below sets out the homework which is consistently given each week.

Class	Weekly homework set
Reception	Daily reading or phonics Spellings or handwriting at an ability appropriate point of the school year
Year 1	Daily reading Spellings and handwriting
Year 2	Daily reading Spellings and handwriting Numbots
Year 3	Daily reading Spellings Times tables or 1 piece of Maths work
Year 4	Daily reading Spellings

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	Times tables or 1 piece of Maths work
Year 5	Daily reading Spellings Mental Maths- Times tables 1 piece of Maths work
Year 6	Daily reading Spellings Mental Maths- Times tables 1 piece of Maths work After Christmas, there may be increased homework linked to preparation for SATs

At St. Joseph's, we believe that more creative and practical tasks are of equal importance as more formal written tasks and encourage our children and parents to support this view as the tasks in the homework grid are completed.

Reviewed September 2025

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