

HOMework POLICY



At St Mary's we believe homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. We believe that it is important to build strong links between home and school. At all times children will be encouraged to read at home. We are committed to promoting parental involvement in education and so parents will be encouraged to help and support their children for example, by teaching them how to tell the time and by reading with them on a regular basis.

RATIONALE FOR HOMEWORK

Homework can be an important part of a child's education, and can add much to their development. We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning which is an important aspect as they grow. Homework can play a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment.

However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school. We also acknowledge that too much homework, which seems lacking in purpose and clarity can have a detrimental effect on children's confidence and the quality of family life. In line with this school will ensure that:

- children will always have at least three days to complete and return homework to school
- the setting of homework will be flexible around days in the calendar that families may wish to mark or celebrate (e.g. Halloween, Bonfire Night, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday)
- when setting homework teachers will be sensitive to family celebrations, e.g. birthdays
- Homework will not be set the night before or the night after an educational visit

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.
- to be set a variety of different types of homework dependent on age and ability.

STRATEGIES

1. Homework will be set at the class teacher's discretion, but, apart from the encouragement to read, could involve up to two homework tasks per week. This can vary at different times of the

year. For example, during certain times, more homework may be set in Y6 to help prepare for national curriculum tests

2. Homework must be manageable and purposeful for both children and staff.
3. Where teachers have set homework they should review the outcomes and give feedback to the learners.
4. Homework in EYFS can include learning letters/sounds, reading, spelling, games and maths.
5. Homework in Key Stage 1 will include reading, learning new vocabulary/spellings and maths.
6. Homework in Key Stage 2 will include reading, maths (e.g. times tables), English work, research projects and revision of basic skills.
7. Homework can involve occasional projects, e.g. in history, which could require computer research.
8. Homework should be differentiated and contain sufficient challenge to help pupils make progress, ie new skills, knowledge or understanding.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS

Parents/carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents/carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children with homework as and when they feel it to be necessary. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents/carers get involved – as long as they don't do too much. The work must be the child's.

Parents/carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Parents/carers should note that medical experts recommend that children should spend no more than thirty minutes at a time looking at a computer screen.

OUTCOMES

This policy will ensure that a sensible approach will be taken by all and that learners will benefit through the co-operation of home and school by extending learning beyond the school day.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be monitored by the senior leadership team and staff on a regular basis.