

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Home Learning Policy



Review: November 2023

Adopted by the Governing Body: November 2023

Next review: November 2025

An active educational partnership between home and school is crucial in enabling children to attain the highest standards – spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic. Well-planned and structured homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership.

We believe that homework is *“any activity that seeks to make effective links between home and school in supporting children’s learning and development”*

### **Why do homework?**

Well-planned and structured homework can:

- reinforce skills learned in the classroom
- provide extra practice when needed
- develop good work habits and self-discipline
- provide opportunities for individual work
- help parents to gain insight into their children’s school work

**Together teachers, parents and pupils will work to achieve the aims of this policy.**

**Teachers will:**

1. explain homework procedures and routines
2. ensure that children understand the task and what it involves.
3. ensure that realistic and achievable time constraints have been set.
4. ensure there are opportunities for revision, extension and preview.

5. ensure that children receive feedback about their homework. This may be either written, verbal, including recognition of children's efforts.

**For parents to actively support this homework policy they should:**

1. Consider providing a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework.
2. Where possible, become involved in homework activities with children.
3. Make it clear to their children that they value homework.

**This may involve:**

- Listening to reading and discussing the text
- Practising number bonds or times tables
- Checking presentation
- Giving guidance when there are problems, (but please do not complete it for them)
- Checking that the work is understood
- Making it fun!

**Some tips that might help:**

- ✓ Choose the right time for your children to do their homework, maybe not when they first arrive home or after a club when they might feel tired and need to recharge their batteries
- ✓ If homework is taking too long, discuss this with the class teacher who will be able to help
- ✓ Encourage and praise them for their efforts

If parents have any concerns regarding homework, they should make an appointment to see the class teacher to discuss and resolve any issues.

**Pupils will:**

1. Ensure that homework is completed and handed in on time
2. Should there be a genuine reason why homework is not handed in, parents should be encouraged to tell the class teacher

If a child regularly fails to hand homework in, the class teacher will inform the parents of the situation. Then, if there is no improvement, the parents will be asked to come into school so that any problems can be resolved.

Some children may have more or less homework than that set out in this policy, so that their individual needs may be met.

**The implementation of the homework policy will be monitored:**

- Annually by the Deputy Headteacher
- By class teachers – whenever enquiries concerning homework are made by parents or pupils.

As part of the on-going evaluation and review, it might be necessary to place a particular focus on an area of study or the improvement of specific skills. On such occasion parents and children will be informed. Such activities may replace all or some of the children’s usual homework.

**Appendix A**

**Overview of Homework**

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Time Allocation Daily</b>	<b>Homework Given</b>
<b>EYFS</b>	15 minute sessions	Phonics Reading and key words Number facts
<b>Year 1</b>	15 minute sessions	Phonics Reading Numbers facts
<b>Year 2</b>	20 minute sessions	Phonics Reading Number facts
<b>Year 3</b>	25 minute sessions	Reading Spelling/ phonics Times tables
<b>Year 4</b>	25 minute sessions	Reading Spelling/ phonics Times tables
<b>Year 5</b>	35 minute sessions	Reading Spellings Times tables / mental maths RE/Foundation subject
<b>Year 6</b>	45 minute sessions	Reading Spellings Times tables / mental maths RE/Foundation subject

## **Appendix B**

### **Subject Guidelines**

#### **Reading**

Daily reading is vital for all children. For EYFS and KS1, this should largely consist of daily reading with parents and sharing books. Reading practice and listening to others read should continue right the way through our school. Children are encouraged to change their books regularly, RWI reading book twice a week. Children also have access to e-books.

#### **Spelling**

Spellings should be relevant yet challenging. In KS2, tasks may include learning high frequency words, research into sound patterns or letter strings, topic words and lists generated from the child's own errors.

#### **English**

Other literacy tasks will include practising what has been learnt in class, along with continual reinforcement of grammar and punctuation and independent writing activities. Accelerated Reader and Oxford Owl are available across the school along with RWI phonics programmes.

#### **Maths**

The learning of times tables and quick recall of number bonds is an integral part of maths home learning, daily practice of these essential skills is vital for all children. Powermaths and TT Rockstars platforms are available across the school and form part of each child's weekly activities.

#### **RE**

We recognise RE as a core subject therefore RE should occasionally be set as home learning. Suggested activities are in the termly R.E. newsletter which is also available online in the 'Parents' section'.

#### **Foundation Subjects**

Occasional research and topic tasks will be set, usually during the extended school holidays.