

# St Michael & All Angels Catholic Primary School



## Homework Policy

*'Love one another as Jesus loves us.'*

Together with the love of Jesus and our Gospel values, we will embrace each child's uniqueness and create a journey of love and enjoyment where we support our families and children in being the best they can be!

# Homework Policy

## **Introduction**

Homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. At St Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary School we see work done at home as a valuable part of school work.

## Rationale for Homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. 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. Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment.

## Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
- To promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- 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.

We hope parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

## CURRENT PRACTICE

At the beginning of the academic year, each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework.

Parents will be issued with a newsletter each term to inform them about the main topics and units of work being covered.

## THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK

The nature of homework will change, as children get older. For children in Key Stage 1, developing a partnership with parents and carers, and involving them actively in children's learning is a key objective. Short activities of different kinds – reading together, learning spellings and number facts - provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult, and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning, which they will need to continue lifelong learning and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time to study at home. By the time children reach Year 6 their homework programme will cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content, with a regular weekly schedule. This approach will benefit their learning and also ensure that, in relation to homework as much as to other aspects, their transition to Year 7/Secondary school is as smooth as possible.

Homework will be differentiated to take account of individual pupils needs.

In all year groups homework will include home reading.

Reading - The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that children will read for pleasure in their own time.

## Maths

From Year 1 homework will be provided for pupils to consolidate or revise particular mathematical skills.

## THE TIME TO BE SPENT ON HOMEWORK

The Government's recommended time allocation, based on current good practice, is set out in *Homework: Guidelines for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools*, and we endeavour to follow this guidance in the amount of time that we ask pupils to spend on their homework. These guidelines and the types of activities that children might be expected to undertake are given below.

## YEAR GROUP AMOUNT ACTIVITIES

Years 1 and 2 – 40 mins to 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 – 1.5 hours a day/a regular weekly schedule

The school believes that a regular pattern is important, particularly for English and Mathematics. It will endeavour to establish a familiar routine of when tables and spellings are set and when they are tested.

## Homework to be completed

**Foundation 1** - Children will begin to bring home a library book of their choosing after Easter.

Regular home learning tasks linked to what we have been learning in class will be shared via the Seesaw App. This may be in the form of task sheets, notes and videos. Support materials will be provided as and when appropriate.

**Foundation 2** – Home reading – each Friday children will bring home the book that they have explored during the week in class. Children will also bring home a library book of their choosing.

Phonics – parents/ carers will receive a half termly overview of sounds covered in class and appropriate materials for supporting their child's developing phonic knowledge.

Regular home learning tasks linked to what we have been learning in class will be shared via the Seesaw App. This may be in the form of task sheets, notes and videos. Support materials will be provided as and when appropriate.

**Year 1** – Reading (books are changed at some point over the week so must be in school every day)

Weekly English/Phonics and Maths homework are sent home weekly via SEESAW

**Year 2** – Weekly – a new reading book will be sent home at least once a week. Books must be in school each day.

Weekly Maths and English homework sent home every Friday to be returned the following Wednesday

**Little Angels** – Reading (daily)

Weekly spellings (sent home Tuesday to be tested on the following Friday)

**Year 3** – Reading (daily) & weekly spellings (sent home every Friday to be tested the following Friday)

Weekly English & Maths homework sent home every Friday to be returned Wednesday the following week.

#### **Year 4 – Reading (daily)**

Weekly spellings – sent home Friday and tested the following Friday

Weekly English & Maths homework – sent home every Friday to be returned Monday

#### **Year 5 - Reading (daily)**

Weekly English and Maths homework – sent home every Friday to be returned Monday

#### **Year 6 – Reading (nightly)**

Weekly spellings also given

Weekly English and Maths homework - sent home every Friday to be returned Tuesday

### THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND CARERS IN SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

#### **Role of the school**

- . monitor the effectiveness of the homework policy each year
- . support parents (where appropriate) with methods of teaching in English and Mathematics by offering parent meetings/workshops etc

#### **Role of the class teacher**

- . Plan homework as an integral part of curriculum planning
- . inform pupils and parents of homework timetables
- . match homework, as far as possible, to the ability of the children
- . provide feedback which encourages pupils to regularly complete tasks

#### **Role of the parents/carers**

The school recognises that parents and carers have a key role to play in supporting pupils' homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older. For much of their homework, particularly with younger children, parents and carers will be encouraged to become actively involved in joint homework activities.

To avoid 'battles' over homework we recommend:-

- the task is undertaken at an appropriate time when the child is best able to concentrate;
- your child may need lots of encouragement, praise and even your company and help for certain tasks;
- that work at home is perceived as a shared activity;
- it should not be used as a threat or punishment.

Your HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT and PRAISE is the key to success.

We ask you to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework – alone, or more often for younger children, together with an adult.

We do not envisage a primary school child spending time in isolation with work he or she may find difficult. Give support and help but do not do the work for the children. Please support children in completing tasks and return work in a tidy presentable state.

#### Concerns

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage them to ask their teacher for further guidance. If you have any concerns about the levels of homework or the content etc., please see your child's class teacher. Do not let your child get upset about homework; if there is a problem come in and speak to the teacher about it.

#### REVIEWING THE POLICY

The homework policy will be reviewed every year. Where significant changes to the policy are felt to be required, proposals will be presented to the governing body and parents consulted.

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