



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Homework Policy

Mission statement

To follow in Jesus' footsteps, caring for each other when we work, play and pray.

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside their normal school day that contributes to their learning. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers, parents or carers to support the child's learning. Homework is part of the wider partnership between home and school reinforcing classroom learning and gives an opportunity to develop key skills for independent learning.

Parent's commitment to homework is essential if it is to be effective.

Rationale

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development.

We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents, carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Homework is an important way of establishing a successful link between home and school. We aim for all our children to develop as independent learners and we believe homework will help children to acquire this skill.

Homework plays a very positive role in raising a child's level of attainment.

We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. We would not wish to prevent children from taking part in out of school activities, parish activities, clubs and organisations that can also develop their social, spiritual and physical skills. Children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full if supported by their parents or carers to make the maximum use of these experiences and opportunities that are available outside school.

Amount of Homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school:

Foundation

Foundation – Homework is based mainly on reading activities throughout the year. Children receive sound sheets to reinforce school work until all 42 sounds are covered. They are given a reading book/ditty which may include high frequency words to share and practice each week.

Year 1 and Year 2

Children in year 1 and year 2 should spend approximately one hour per week on homework which includes reading with an adult.

Year 3 and Year 4

Children in year 3 and year 4 should spend approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes per week on English (reading, writing, spelling ...) and Maths and other topic related work.

Year 5 and Year 6

Children in year 5 and year 6 should spend approximately 30 minutes per night on a range of activities across all aspects of the curriculum.

All children from Foundation upwards will be given a reading record which staff, parents, carers and children can record the books they have read and note any comments regarding their reading, parents are asked to acknowledge that they have heard their child read.

All children from Year 1 upwards have their own Maths workbook which will be used at home to reinforce school work and give constant reinforcement of mathematical concepts.

Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 may also have vocabulary words and sounds to be learnt.
Year 3 to Year 6 have weekly spellings and Mental Maths homework to be learnt.

Inclusion

We set homework for all pupils as a normal part of school life. We try to ensure that all tasks set, are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. If specialist resources or equipment are necessary for an individual to successfully complete their homework task, we will endeavour to provide such resources. When setting homework we will refer to the child's Individual Education Plan where relevant.

Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the necessary environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their children by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and accessing the Internet, where possible and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents have any problems or questions about their child's homework; they should contact the class teacher.