



ST JOSEPH'S HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

Homework is regarded as an extension of the work done in school. It can encompass a whole variety of activities to support children's learning. The content and time spent on homework will vary from year to year. We hope parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that homework is done conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to spend time pursuing out-of-school activities eg music lessons, swimming, dance, youth club etc.

Aims and Objectives

- ☐ To provide opportunities for the practice, application and consolidation of work done in school (particularly in Literacy and Numeracy) and to promote self-confidence.
- ☐ To promote co-operation and develop an effective partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
- ☐ To help pupils develop the skills of independence, self-discipline and good work habits for the future.

Homework is set for all children on four nights per week. This can take many forms but will usually include reading, spellings, maths/literacy, topic work, religion etc.

The approximate time that children should spend on homework is set out below. It is important that children complete their homework as this is a way of reinforcing work done in class.

Current Practice/Time to be Spent

Foundation Stage

Tasks will include consolidation activities from the Literacy programme or the Numeracy programme which may be oral, practical or written. Children will also get reading books home to show off their increasing reading skills and word folders with High Frequency words which they have met while reading in school.

Homework should take approximately 15 minutes.

Key Stage 1 - P3/4

Homework will include Reading, Spelling and Number Facts alongside written homework including Numeracy and Literacy Tasks which will consolidate or revise particular skills and knowledge. Written homework should take approximately 20-30 minutes.

Key Stage 2 - P5/6/7

Children will continue on similar tasks for homework as in KS1. These will include Spellings, Reading, Tables/Maths facts. Written activities will include Literacy, Numeracy and/or World Around Us/Religion.

Children are expected to work more independently at this stage demonstrating increasing initiative and self-discipline. ICT can also be used to complete homework tasks where appropriate. Written homework should take approximately 40 min to an hour.

Regular patterns and routines will be established in each class for homework, which will be made clear to parents at an appropriate time (parent meeting etc.)

These are guidelines and may vary at certain times of the year/ special events.

Inclusion and Homework (SEN)

Setting the right type and amount of homework for children with special educational needs will need careful consideration by the class teacher and co-ordination with both the SENCo and parents. The objectives of homework outlined in this policy should apply equally to pupils with special educational needs. Whilst children with SEN may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class, it is important that they should do as much in common with the other children as possible. Homework tasks for children with SEN should:

- ☐ Have a very clear focus and time-guideline;
- ☐ Give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed;
- ☐ Help develop social as well as other skills where necessary;
- ☐ Be varied – and not purely written assignments;
- ☐ Be manageable for teachers

We are mindful that specific tasks in the form of Individual Education Plans for children with Special Educational Needs will be set. Parents will be made aware of this as appropriate.

Role of the School, Teachers, Parents/Carers in supporting children with Homework Activities

Role of the school

- ☐ Monitor the effectiveness of the homework policy regularly.
- ☐ Support parents with the newer methods of teaching in English and Mathematics by offering parent meetings to put into context the development of English and Mathematics.

Role of the class teacher

- ☐ Plan homework as an integral part of curriculum planning
- ☐ Inform pupils of homework timetables.
- ☐ Match homework, as far as possible, to the ability of the children
- ☐ Provide feedback which encourages pupils to regularly complete tasks
- ☐ Feedback should be appropriate to the task eg
 - Individual comment from the teacher, verbal or written
 - Marking of the task within an acceptable timeframe
 - Teacher supporting pupil self-marking
 - Reading/Homework diary entry.

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:-

- ☐ That children should be allowed to work at an appropriate pace;
- ☐ 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;
- ☐ Work at home should be planned carefully around other interests to avoid clashes;
- ☐ 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 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.

Use of ICT

A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

Monitoring and Reviewing of Policy

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