

St. James the Great Roman Catholic Primary and Nursery School



Homework Policy

Date Created: Autumn 2009
Date Reviewed: Autumn 2013

Rationale

In general, homework at the primary stage of education is seen as contributing to good practice and aids effective learning. Homework further involves parents in their child's education and reinforces the teacher/parent partnership.

We value the role of parents and seek to involve them at home in the tasks being undertaken by their children at school. These tasks may vary in frequency and content. The school aims for homework are:

- To extend and develop skills already learnt.
- To prepare for a lesson to be developed in class.
- To encourage pupils to work towards independence.
- To 'catch up' on class work.
- To accelerate the progress of pupils.

A calm environment should be provided in which the child can work. We would wish parents to support and encourage their child in completing work at home. It is important that success is rewarded and that the work done at home should not become a trial or trauma. Should this happen, parents are asked to contact the child's class teacher.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

We ask you to read and share with your child the book they bring home on a daily basis. A reading record book accompanies the reading book inside their book bag and you are requested to use this book to make comments about your child's reading. Words from the child's reading book may be sent home to be learnt, when the teacher feels this is appropriate.

Sharing free time together by talking, listening, playing board games, developing child's hobbies and interests and playing together are all important activities. It is important to remember that children learn through a range of both informal and formal activities. Aspects of play can be educational. It will be counter-productive if tasks are forced or become confrontational.

Reception

- Parents are asked to reinforce phonic sounds being taught.
- Pupils will begin sight reading words in school. When it is felt to be appropriate, pupils will bring home words to practise reading each day. These will be monitored weekly.
- Reading books will be brought home on a daily basis with the reading comment book detailed above.
- As children progress, then support at home is requested in respect of development of correct letter and number formation in line with the school script.

Activities that will further help your child include cutting, colouring, drawing around templates, threading and tracing. It is important to note that children progress at varying rates and this should be taken account of when undertaking tasks detailed above.

Year 1

- A class reading book will be brought home from a graded reading box daily. Your child will have a reading record booklet to enable you to make comments in regard to your child's reading and enjoyment of their book. You are asked to encourage your child during the year to start writing their own comments.
- Information about topics will be provided to parents at the Autumn term open evening.
- If intervention is required for specific children, continued support at home is requested in respect of development of correct letter and number formation in line with the school script.
- Parents are asked to reinforce phonic sounds being taught.
- Maths homework will be issued shortly after the beginning of the Autumn term. The activities are generally practical. A maths homework book will be issued in due course together with a record booklet where we would be grateful if you could record how your child responded to the practical activity. Parents are encouraged to comment on their child's progress.
- Words will be sent home (in the form of flashcards) that your child will need to learn to enhance their progress through the reading scheme. These words need to be returned to your child's bookbag every evening. Please go over these with your child each day. We will monitor the learning of the words on a weekly basis and will issue new words to the children as appropriate.
- Children will be given 10 spellings to learn each week. These will be tested the following week in the form of a single word test and short dictation.

Year 2

- Class reading book will be brought home from a graded reading box on a daily basis. Your child will have a reading record book to enable them to make comments in regard to their reading and enjoyment of the book.
- Your child will be given a list of spellings every Friday. These will be tested along with a dictation as appropriate the following Friday.
- Children are expected to do a specified piece of maths homework from the Abacus Scheme. This will be set on a Friday to be completed and returned on the following Tuesday. Mental Arithmetic is set on Tuesday to be returned on Friday.
- A piece of Mathematics homework will be set each week starting in the Spring term.

- Children should be given the opportunity to undertake a variety of practical numeracy activities at home with parents such as:-
 - Counting in 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, 6's, 10's and 11's as number sentences e.g. $2 \times 3 = 6$.
 - Practical money activities including recognition of coins, counting amount up to £1 and shopping problems.
 - Recognise and describe 2D and 3D shapes.

Please note these activities are not set for maths by class teachers.

Key Stage Two

As the children get older, more directed tasks will be set. Homework does not need to be written down before it is called homework. For example, a pupil may be asked to research material for a particular topic. A good general knowledge to include capital cities, countries, currency, plants, UK towns, cities, rivers etc can be acquired through revision at home.

Children also need free time to pursue their own interests and hobbies: Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, sport, music, instrumental practice if learning an instrument. Reading to/with your child remains an important activity.

Homework will be set to consolidate class work in Literacy and Numeracy. Numeracy activities are set on a weekly basis, to be completed as homework. Weekly spellings are sent home to be learnt for the following week's test.

There will be regular feedback and follow up with the pupils, appropriate to the age of the children and task set. Strategies for future development will be discussed with the pupil and, if necessary, with the parent on an appropriate occasion e.g. Parents' Evening.

Pupils will be issued with a homework diary for recording the work they are set.

As appropriate, homework will include:-

Year 3:

- Daily reading (a minimum of 15 minutes per night is recommended).
- One topic based maths activity weekly.
- One activity from Mental Arithmetic book weekly.
- Weekly spellings.
- A weekly written task set in a Homework book.
- Multiplication tables, 3,4,6 *- revise and know 1,2,5,10*.
- Athletics tasks as directed.

Other practical activities will include:

- Handwriting practice where it is felt necessary for individuals.

- Research skills developed through the half termly topics.
- Specific tasks set by teacher from time to time.

Year 4:

- Daily reading (a minimum of 20 minutes per night is recommended).
- One activity from the Mental Arithmetic book weekly.
- One topic based maths activity weekly.
- Weekly spellings.
- Multiplication tables 7,8* - revise others.
- A weekly written task set in a Homework book.
- Mathematics tasks as directed.

Other practical activities will include:

- Research skills developed through the half termly topics.
- Specific tasks set by teacher.

Year 5:

- Reading (a minimum of 20 minutes per night is recommended).
- One page from the Mental Arithmetic book weekly.
- One topic based maths activity weekly.
- Weekly spellings.
- Multiplication tables
- One Literacy activity per week.
- Mathematics tasks as directed.
- Research skill development, which will include independent projects.

Year 6:

This is a time to prepare the children for Key Stage 2 tests and transfer to secondary school and the commitment this entails. To 'ease' the children into their first year (Year 7 - Key Stage 3) at secondary school, we aim to:

- Encourage self-discipline in completing tasks at home and in school.
- Continue to develop independent learning skills and attitudes to enable the pupils to use their initiative in all learning environments.
- Prepare pupils for the secondary homework commitment.

Your child should continue, as in previous years, to enter the tasks set by a teacher in their homework diary. This is checked regularly throughout the year, but your child is expected to assume responsibility for this task. If problems arise, please make a comment in the diary.

Homework activities will include:

- Reading (20 minutes a day recommended minimum).

- Numeracy activities set by teacher twice a week. (One page from their Mental Arithmetic book plus an additional task.)
- Research skill development, which will include independent projects.
- Weekly spellings.
- Catching up on class initiated tasks and activities if not completed.
- Weekly Literacy tasks.
- Mathematics tasks as directed.
- Topic and Science homework tasks as appropriate.

It is important to emphasise that children should never continue a task if it causes distress or if it is too late in the evening or something arises that makes completion of any set task impossible.

Storing of Homework

Upper KS2:

In Years 5 and 6 children will have a homework folder, which will be used to transport homework sheets and tasks to and from school.

Marked homework will be returned to children, and then returned home via the homework folders for the children to share with their parents. Homework may, on occasion, be retained by the class teacher in order to build up a portfolio of the child's work. In this case, a note to parents will be sent home in the homework folder, in place of the returned homework.

Where homework sheets are lost, they will be replaced at a small charge to cover the photocopying expenses. This is to encourage children to assume greater responsibility for their homework and belongings, and to prepare them for the practices and routines of secondary school.

Time Spent on Homework

Whilst we would recommend daily reading, please note the previous Government's recommended time allocation as set out in *Homework: Guidelines for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools* (no current guidance is available):

Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week	Reading, spelling, other literacy work and number work
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week	Literacy and numeracy as for years 1 and 2, with occasional assignments in other subjects
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes per day	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy, but also ranging widely over the curriculum

Next Policy Review Date: Autumn 2014

