

St Mary's C of E Primary School

Homework Guidance

Reviewed by governors: September 2017



Homework, along with school lunches, toilets and uniform is one of the most controversial and heavily debated topics in school life. Parent questionnaires indicate in most schools that parents are very divided in terms of what constitutes too much homework and too little. In most schools there are some parents who think that there should be no homework at all and some who want homework and a report from the teacher every day!

At St Mary's we hope to find a happy medium in this area.

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 and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that 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. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Aims and objectives

- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Amount of homework

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

Organisation of homework

Reception, Year 1, Year 2 , Year 3 , Year 4, Year 5

Homework is sent home on Fridays and returned for marking on Wednesdays. This affords some flexibility for parents and enables parents to help their child to complete homework over the weekend.

Year 5

Additional homework is sent home on Wednesdays and returned on Fridays

Year 6

Homework is sent home every day to be returned the following day

Teachers, pupils and parents need to maintain high expectations for homework at the school. This means that homework is always completed on time and to a high standard of content and presentation. Homework that is completed inappropriately will be returned to the child to be finished properly.

All homework needs to be matched carefully to the individual needs of the children.

Homework should arrive at home and be returned to school in a book bag.

Marking

Homework is sometimes marked together as a whole class and sometimes marked by an adult at school.

The marked homework is sent home.

Pupils with special educational needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we adapt the task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play 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 sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a quiet working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing. If parents have any concerns or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Monitoring and review

Completion of homework records are kept by the class teacher. Senior leaders monitor homework provision on a termly basis.

Homework provision:

Reception:

In reading, children are given three levelled books a week to take home to read with their parents plus a book to share. We give guidance to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child.

In phonics, children are expected to work on a weekly phonics activity with an adult.

In maths, children are given a weekly maths activity to complete.

Year 1 & Year 2:

In reading, children are usually given two or three levelled books a week to take home to read with their parents plus a book to share. We give guidance to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child.

In spelling, children are expected to learn spellings and complete up to ten spelling sentences a week.

Children have grammar and comprehension homework on alternate weeks.

In maths, children are given a weekly maths activity to complete

Children also complete a half termly piece of RE homework.

Years 3, 4 & 5

In reading, children are encouraged to read ability appropriate novels independently and are expected to read for a minimum of 30 minutes per day.

In spelling, children are given up to 10 appropriate spellings to learn each week and are tested in school. These words should also be put into spelling sentences.

Children have grammar and comprehension homework each week.

In maths, children are given maths activities to complete each week and are expected to learn their tables.

Children also complete a half termly piece of RE homework.

Year 6

In reading, children are encouraged to read ability appropriate novels independently and are expected to read for a minimum of 30 minutes per day.

Children extend the learning that they have been doing that day.

Children also complete a half termly piece of RE homework.

In addition...

Each half term, parents are given curriculum information guidance so that they can support their children in completing tasks related to all subjects. For example, in the history topic 'Tudors', we ask children to find out about the life of Henry VIII, and facts about the monarchy. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in lessons. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the local library and the Internet.

Holiday Homework Year 1 to Year 5

Christmas holidays- Reading, times tables and 'finding out' about their cross curricular topic for the following term

Easter holidays- Reading, times tables and a 'craft' activity related to something that they will be learning about the following term

Summer holidays- Reading, times tables and a 'craft' activity related to something that they will be learning about the following term