

St Joseph's RC Primary School

Homework Policy

"Doing homework regularly throughout their time at school has roughly the same benefit as an extra year's schooling." (S.E.E.D.)

Learning happens wherever children are and for the largest part of their developing years they are within their homes and communities. It is therefore imperative that we should work co-operatively with parents and carers to make children's learning a positive and relevant experience.

HOME LEARNING SHOULD:

- Consolidate and extend the work carried out in class
- Help children develop new skills and practise old ones
- Encourage good study habits in children and promote positive attitudes
- Inform parents as to what their children are learning within class
- Involve parents in encouraging, supervising and checking homework

HOMEWORK SHOULD BE:

- Planned in advance
- Only given when it is purposeful and useful in relation to class work
- Kept manageable with regards to time for pupils, teachers and parents
- Varied
- Appropriate to the needs and abilities of pupils – in consultation with the ASL teacher if child receives additional support with learning
- Explained clearly so that pupils know exactly what is required and when it is to be completed
- Received and acknowledged in a meaningful way when it has been completed by providing feedback on content and presentation

PUPIL'S ROLE

Pupils should: -

- be responsible for their homework diary
- complete allocated work to the best of their ability within the set time
- take responsibility for ensuring that tasks are understood
- share tasks with parents
- ask parents to sign completed work
- respect homework materials

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PARENT'S ROLE

Parents should: -

- check their child's homework diary and sign
- encourage your child to complete homework tasks
- provide a suitable work orientated study area
- ensure a reasonable standard of presentation of work
- sign completed tasks
- comment in the pupils homework diary if appropriate
- support staff by valuing your child's efforts.

TEACHER'S ROLE

- set homework tasks which are varied, interesting and challenging
- ensure that clear instructions are given for each task
- set work which is appropriate to children's ability and classwork
- provide suitable feedback on children's efforts.
- In composite classes staff should be sensitive to differentiation to avoid pupils feeling 'demoted'.

MANAGEMENT OF HOMEWORK

- Primary 1-3 classes should be given 10 minutes homework each day.
- Primary 4-5 should be given 20 minutes homework each day.
- Primary 6-7 should be given 30 minutes each day.
- Homework may be posted on the class blog or given out in class.
- Homework will be assessed and discussed on Wednesday mornings.
- Homework will be issued on Wednesday and collected the following Tuesday to give time over a weekend for those pupils and parents with very busy weekday commitments. There may be an element of flexibility here.
- Primary 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 should enter homework in homework diaries
- Parents should be notified of Personal Projects.
- Parents should be notified of non completion of homework by the class teacher.
- If non completion of homework persists staff will inform the Senior Management Team who will take appropriate action.

HOME LEARNING PROGRAMME

Primary 1 – 3

Children in the infant stages should be given small amounts of homework on a regular basis. They should spend approximately 10 minutes per evening completing homework activities.

Reading, Phonics and number consolidation will form the core activities, but other activities will be designed to include all subject areas.

HOMEWORK SHOULD

- Consolidate core vocabulary for reading books
- Encourage reading aloud
- Reinforce number bonds
- Reinforce specific curricular areas, e.g. money and time

Activities

Early Stages (P1 – P3) 10 minutes each day

- Learning new words
- Reading with or to a parent
- Phonics or spelling work
- Writing
- Recognition of numbers
- Mathematical reinforcement activities of worksheets, games, collecting materials for use in class etc.
- Preparing talks for class activity
- Cross-curricular activities including research.

Primary 4 – 6

Children in P4-5 should spend only 20 minutes per night on homework. Children in P6-7 should spend 30 minutes per night on homework.

HOMEWORK SHOULD:

- Encourage reading aloud and silent reading at home (except in P7 unless it is on a child's IEP)
- Practise, develop and reinforce aspects of language course work
- Practise, develop and reinforce spelling course work

- Practise, develop and reinforce aspects of mathematics course work
- Enhance topic related course work
- Encourage work on personal topic studies, including presentations.
- Encourage independent learning
- Activities designed to include all subject areas.

ACTIVITIES

Middle Stages (p4 – P5) 20 minutes each day

- Practice in mathematical processes and language conventions
- Spelling practice
- Pieces of writing
- Reading
- Gathering information for projects etc.

Upper Stages (p6 – P7) 30 minutes each day

- Includes the above activities
- Problem solving tasks
- Researching information for class project work
- Preparing a presentation

UNFINISHED WORK

In general, unfinished work should not go home on a regular basis. If however a teacher is satisfied that a pupil has failed to complete tasks due to lack of effort then the pupil may be asked to finish these at home. This work will have been considered by the teacher to be well within the pupil's capability and enough time for completion to have been given in class. It would be helpful if parents regarded this work as a sanction to avoid the possibility that pupils may prefer to take work home and not work in class.

DIARIES

All classes use a homework diary where any homework (reading, language, maths, topic) is recorded, as well as any other information relevant to the child or parent. There is also a place for parent's signature and opportunity for any other communication from the parent.

Parents should use homework diaries as another means of communication with the school i.e. comments are welcomed

MONITORING AND SUPPORT

Homework will be checked and commented on by the class teacher.

Homework should be regarded as a valuable activity and every encouragement should be given to motivate pupils to complete tasks. When a positive approach is adopted pupils will see homework as having a value and will be motivated to complete their tasks. Failure to complete homework should be discussed initially with the pupil and also with parents at regular parent interviews.

The Head Teacher will monitor homework throughout the school as part of the school's programme of evaluating the effectiveness of learning and teaching.

MONITORING OF THE POLICY

This policy is the result of a process of consultation involving parents, teachers and pupils of St Joseph's RC Primary. It will be further monitored in discussions at staff meetings on a regular basis.

In addition the quality of, and range of homework, will be audited and considered at the time of a review.

During the course of implementation further resources for homework will be discussed and considered as to suitability within our work programmes and to whether this offers opportunity for the provision of more stimulating and challenging work.

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