

Homework Policy



Love, Learn and Shine Together with Jesus

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Curriculum Leader: Lynn Evans

Mission Statement:

This is St Matthew's Catholic Primary School's policy for homework and is set within the context of the whole school aims and Mission Statement:

"Love, Learn and Shine Together with Jesus "

Rationale

At St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, we believe homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in numeracy, literacy and other curriculum areas, helps raise the level of achievement of individual pupils, provides opportunities for parents/carers and children to work together and, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school. We value the support of parents/carers and we believe that this policy will be successful if there is a strong partnership between home and school, which is reflected in the Home-School Agreement. We recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support whilst still allowing quality family time. The policy is the result of consultation with all stakeholders.

Aims

- To provide opportunities for parents/carers to work alongside their child or children to support their learning in school.
- To support the development of literacy and numeracy skills
- To reinforce skills and knowledge taught in lessons.
- To develop a good pattern of working at home.
- To help children become independent learners.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Governing Body:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Curriculum & Standards Committee and to the Headteacher to oversee the development of this policy
- nominate link governors to visit the school/classes regularly, to liaise with the Headteacher, staff and to report back to the Governing Body
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

The Headteacher:

- promote this policy by raising its status and importance
- ensure that homework is built into teachers planning
- monitor and evaluate the effective application of this policy

Teachers:

- integrate homework into their planning
- set tasks linked to prior learning except around research
- set homework appropriate to ability

- explain when, what and how the work is to be done so that each child clearly understands
- give feedback on homework in line with, Marking Policy

Parents/carers:

- be supportive of the school's homework policy
- praise the value of homework to their children
- provide a suitable space in their home where their children can concentrate on their homework
- establish a homework routine
- At an age appropriate level support their child/ren with their homework
- make the experience pleasurable and find time to work with their child or be at hand if a problem arises
- discuss, encourage and praise their child's efforts
- Not get into conflicts about homework
- Trust that your child will have always completed similar work in school
- contact the teacher if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or if their child is experiencing difficulties in doing it

Children:

- complete their homework and hand it in on time
- listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them
- make sure they get feedback on their homework
- complete their homework using appropriate writing materials and to a similar standard to classwork
- have a go at all their homework activities

If homework is not completed:

If a child has been unable to complete homework because of family commitments, then parents/carers are asked to write a note to the teacher. If a child has problems with the homework, then parents/carers should let the teacher know.

If a child has no clear reason for not completing homework regularly, parents/carers will be informed. Homework is not compulsory however, it is important that children complete work to support them in their learning. If a child fails to complete homework regularly then the child may have to catch up with their peers during playtime in school.

SEND children

We understand that children with additional needs may have difficulties completing their homework, this may be due to processing instructions, not remembering methods or being unclear what work needs to be done at home. School will ensure that homework is set at the correct level, and that instructions are clear. Parents/carers are encouraged to allow their child to attempt all homework and praise their child, but never get into dispute over it. If your child cannot do their work, please inform us and we will make further adaptations.

Homework structure

After consultations with all stakeholders, the following homework structure should be followed:

A breakdown of how homework is structured is provided below. This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectations so by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for secondary school. Homework is provided for completion over the course of a week, **Monday for Friday** (except **Reception** who are given homework on **Friday** to be in on **Wednesday**) and so it can be made to fit around family lifestyles and commitments. No homework will be set for over the weekend as we value the importance of family time.

Times tables should be learnt up to 12 x 12 by the end of year 4. There will be a national test of tables for year 4. Multiplication tables have to be a priority for all year groups.

- By the end of Year 2 children should know the 2's, 5's & 10 times tables
- By the end of Year 3 children should know the 3's, 4's & 8 times tables
- By the end of Year 4 children should know the 11's, 6's, 9's, 12's & 7 times tables
- Year 5 and Year 6 should continue to revise all times tables

Learning times tables as early as possible has a really positive effect on all maths work.

TT Rockstars should be accessed frequently at home. Knowing the multiplication tables supports children in a wealth of areas within mathematics. Children should be able to recall all multiplication facts quickly by Year 4 and constant practice will support with this. Children will be celebrated with certificates for their efforts on TT Rockstars.

	Literacy	Numeracy	Foundation/ Other
Reception	Literacy activity	Numeracy activity	Home School Link Book
	Phonics		R.E.
<i>All Reception homework will be given on Friday to be in on Wednesday</i>			
Key Stage 1	Daily Reading	Times Tables- weekly (NB this is from Spring term for Year 1)	Half Termly Activity
	Phonics	Maths Activity- Number work/ Basic Skills	SATs work for Year 2
	Spellings- linked to phonics group	<i>Given on a Monday to be in on Friday</i>	
	Literacy Activity		
	<i>Given on a Monday to be in on Friday</i>		
Key Stage 2	Reading Book	Times Tables- weekly	Half Termly Activity
	Spellings- linked to RWI spelling	Maths Activity- Number work/ Basic Skills	SATs work for Year 6

	Literacy Activity <i>Given on a Monday to be in on Friday</i>	<i>Given on Monday to be in on Friday</i>	
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Literacy Activity- work on spellings/ handwriting/ punctuation/ grammar. This will vary to avoid repetition of the same type of activity eg spelling sentences. Punctuation and grammar activities will cover what has previously been taught and can be used as an opportunity to recap, recall and review.

Maths Activity- this will cover a previously taught topic and used as an opportunity to assess if the children have remembered and can recall previous learning.

Foundation Activity- this will be once a half term and cover one of the foundation subjects. This activity will vary, it could be a project or possibly a mind map that displays everything that the children have remembered/ learned.

Reading books should be brought into school on a Friday so that they can be changed. For those children on the phonics scheme, they will either have 3 or 5 days with their book. Their phonics teacher will tell them when to bring in their books to be changed. Children should read as often as they can. The benefits of this can't be stressed enough. We appreciate that children have their own books at home to read but they should read their school books also.

It is expected that the children will regularly read their **reading book, practice their weekly spellings and work on TT Rockstars** throughout the week.

All homework will be marked, this may vary between peer marking and teacher marking depending on the activity. If peer marking has taken place the class teacher will still view outcomes. Any misconceptions will be dealt with and feedback will be given.

Homework will continue to be as paperless as possible. All children/families have a Seesaw account. Homework will be put on Seesaw and children will be asked to either do the homework on Seesaw or in their homework book. Where the activity is maths, for example, the children will only be expected to write the answer not write out the question.

Homework books will be used with worksheets used only occasionally.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed biannually or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the governors.

Signed _____ September 2023