

**St Peter and St Paul Catholic  
Primary School**

# **Homework Policy**

**2016 - 2019**

**‘The Love of Christ impels us’**

**Live Love Learn**



**‘To love one another as I have loved  
you’**

**What are the aims of this policy?**

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and pupils have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents/carers and pupils are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

**What is the purpose of homework?**

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.
- To provide opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to work together.
- To allow parents/carers to gain an understanding of what pupils are learning in school.
- To allow pupils to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

**What is the role of the school?**

- To provide parents/carers with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents/carers with information about homework.

**What is the role of the teacher?**

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To ensure all pupils understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework.
- To be available to talk to parents/carers and pupils about homework.
- To inform parents/carers if there is a problem regarding homework.

**What is the role of the parent /carer?**

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

**What is the role of the child?**

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

**Homework in Reception**

Learning together is the emphasis for children in Reception. The activities are English based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

**What type of work will my child get?****Reading**

Parents/carers will be informed of the theme that the pupils are learning in school each half term.

Starting in the Autumn Term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done every night and books are changed twice a week.

**Tricky Words.**

At the first parent's evening, parents/carers will be given a list of the words the pupils have learned. Regularly practising reading these words, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them, will really benefit the pupil. For some pupils, it will be useful to practise writing the words as well as reading them. The teachers may send home games to give parents some ideas. It would be useful if these words were practiced on a regular basis in the summer holiday before Year 1, as well as parents continuing to share books with their child.

**How much time should be spent on homework?**

Reception	Approx 15 minutes per day (depending upon the child's level) on English based activities including reading.
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**Homework in Key Stage1**

For children in Key Stage One, we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework.

**What type of work will my child get?****Reading**

Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in Year One and Two. Pupils will bring their reading books home every evening, and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words i.e., using their phonic knowledge to sound words out, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words, are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important, is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. Pupils will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

### **High Frequency Words/ Spelling**

Pupils will have daily phonics lessons throughout Key Stage 1, which will also include ways that pupils can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that pupils build up a bank of words which they can read and spell on sight. Pupils will bring home words each week for them to read, write and learn. We endorse the method of **LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK**. Parents can help pupils to learn these, by practising them regularly and often. Pupils will often receive the same words again in order to practise them further.

### **Maths**

Pupils will be given homework to develop important numeracy skills. Parents can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practise these skills. By the end of Year 2:-

- Pupils should be confident in their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. They should be able to say them in order and mixed up.
- Pupils should be able to double each number up to 20.
- Pupils should be able to halve each even number up to 20.
- Pupils should know their number bonds of all numbers up to 20 and beyond. This means they should know how to make each number, for example 5 can be made by 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0
- Pupils should be able to tell the time when it is o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past on digital and analogue clocks.
- Pupils should be confident when using money. They should know the names of the coins and they should have experience of adding, taking away and finding change.

### **How much time should be spent on homework?**

Year 1 and 2	10 – 15 minutes daily reading. Support to complete their homework, depending on the child's age and ability - Up to 30 minutes maximum. 5 – 10 spelling practice daily
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### **Homework in Key Stage 2**

As pupils get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children, but good habits of independent study should be encouraged.

The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be English and Maths, however pupils will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum.

## **What type of work will my child get?**

### **Reading**

Pupils may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves, in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older pupils need a clear understanding of the text that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning. Pupils will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Parents should continue to complete their child's reading record to show that they have read to an adult or had a discussion about the book.

### **English**

This will be based around what the pupils will be learning in class. Spelling of key words and topic words will be sent home every week. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. Sometimes the task will be a piece of writing.

### **Maths**

This will also be based around what the pupils will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Pupils will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 12, number bonds, number facts etc. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions.

### **Other Areas**

Work could be linked to any other curriculum areas; Science, Geography, History and so on. It could take many forms, preparing a talk, completing a piece of research or conducting an interview.

The nature of this work may be more open ended than in other areas.

### **Creative Homework**

Now and again pupils in Key Stage 2 will be set a creative piece of homework. This homework is open ended and allows them to work on a creative project. This is an optional piece of work, although we encourage the pupils to get involved.

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **How much time should be spent on homework?**

Year 3 and 4	15 minutes reading, 5x per week minimum. 2 x 30 minute tasks in English, Maths or another curriculum area minimum.
Year 5 and 6	20 – 30 minutes reading 5 x per week minimum. 3/4 x 30 minutes tasks in English, Maths or another curriculum area minimum.

Please be reminded that the amount of time spent on homework, will depend on the amount support your child needs to complete the work. The times suggested are the schools recommendations.

### **How can parents find out more information about homework?**

At the Curriculum Meeting at the beginning of the term parents/carers will be given an overview of the topics for the year. The homework is given is based on what the pupils will be learning.

To help parents and pupils all homework will be set on **Friday**, and due in on back on **Tuesday**.

Teachers will have different systems for handing in homework and they will tell parents and pupils about this at the beginning of the year.

If parents need advice on how to support their children with homework, they can speak to the child's class teacher.

### **Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?**

Pupils who are in Year 2 and Year 6 may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the work being done and in preparation for SATs.

Additionally, independent readers may be asked to do extra work on the book they have read. Incomplete class work may also be sent home to be completed. For these cases, pupils should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the pupil or the parents/carers have been told otherwise.

### **What will happen if children don't complete their homework?**

The expectation is that pupils will complete their homework. However if for any reason pupils are unable to complete their homework, parents/ carers should provide the class teacher with a note or contact the class teacher explaining why the homework has not been completed on the day the homework was due to be returned to school. Teachers will keep records of pupils completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. A comment will also be made on pupils' termly report.

There may be occasions when a pupil will miss playtime or some of a lunch time, if they have not completed homework.

**What if a child says they have received no homework?**

If there is any reason why a child has not received homework, their teacher will inform parents/carers. If parents have not received a letter, then they should check with the child's teacher.

**How will the homework be marked?**

Teachers will mark pupils' homework in a variety of ways. Generally the work will be initialled by the class teacher to show they have marked it. Sometimes the work will be 'quality marked'. This is when a piece of work is marked in detail and comments about future progress are added to the work. On other occasions the work may be marked orally with the child or the class, and the 'V' sign will be written on the child's work. Teachers generally will not mark homework that is handed in late.

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