

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Bishop's Stortford



## Homework Policy

Our School Mission Statement:

***"To live, love and learn, in a caring Christian community"***

The *Governors* and staff believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education.

It encourages children to realise that learning can take place outside the classroom and promotes independent learning, thus encouraging the child to take greater responsibility for their progress.

## **AIMS:**

Homework allows parents, carers and the school, to work in partnership for the benefit of their child. We believe homework:

- reinforces skills which have been taught in school and gives children the opportunity to practise what they have learnt.
- encourages self-discipline as the children take responsibility for their learning.
- promotes independent learning.
- sets standards for life and children become accustomed to working at home, preparing them for secondary school.
- encourages children to share their learning with parents and carers.
- encourages parents and carers to become involved with their children's learning.

## **HOMEWORK SCHEDULES**

Homework is given on a regular basis across the school. From time to time, homework may vary in response to a particular activity such as an educational visit, or may be added to, for those children who have not completed the required task in class.

**Annex A** shows the homework given out during a typical week in school.

Teachers will use their professional judgment on the type of homework given and are given liberty to change this depending on the needs of the individual pupil or class needs.

It is our expectation that homework will be handed in on time. If the homework is taking longer than anticipated, then please let your class teacher know that your child has attempted the work but could not finish in the allotted time. If homework is late, or consistently not handed in the parents will be contacted and the work may be asked to be completed during school time.

Teachers will offer opportunities through the week to provide support for children to help them with any homework that is confusing or difficult for children to complete.

Homework will not be set by the class teacher if your child is going on holiday or is absent with sickness.

If your child is going to be absent from school for a number of weeks following a serious illness, only then will work be set by the class teacher.

## **ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS**

Parents have a vital role in supporting their child. Please ensure that you:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which the children can do their homework ideally together with an adult.
- Talk to your child about their learning and make it clear to the children that you value homework.

Please do remember that homework is a way to encourage and reinforce learning at home. Do not be surprised if your child is reluctant to complete their homework! However if the homework set is taking longer to complete than the guidelines in Appendix A, then do not be afraid to stop, even if the work is unfinished, and let the class teacher know.

We realise that parents have very contrasting views about homework and the amount given by the school. However we encourage you to extend your child's learning at home outside of the set homework. This could be in a more formal manner from practice books through to websites, internet resources and Smartphone apps. There are also many worthwhile practical activities you can do with your child that will give them a well rounded general knowledge.

Please remember though that your child needs time to play with their friends and learn how to socialise; role play at home; learn a musical instrument; go to Beavers, Cubs, Brownies; take part in organised sports or just play a game with their parents.

## **INCLUSION**

All children will have access to homework that is relevant to their current stage of learning. Homework will follow the homework timetable for each year group, but be differentiated to provide the appropriate challenge for each pupil.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

All children are provided with equal access to homework. Internet access will be given to those pupils with none at home but parents must inform the class teacher before the homework is due. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity or home background.

Review date: October 2016

To be reviewed: October 2018

## Appendix A

Key Stage	Homework	Given out and returned
EYFS	<p>Daily reading (5 minutes each night) which includes time to practise reading high frequency words which will be given out weekly.</p> <p><b>Phonics:</b> an activity to consolidate the phonics learning for the week.</p> <p><b>Maths:</b> an activity to consolidate the maths learning from the week.</p>	<p>Books will be changed weekly.</p> <p>Maths and Phonics homework will be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned the following Wednesday.</p>
KS1	<p><b>Spellings</b> reflect what is taught in Phonics lessons (up to 10 a week)</p> <p><b>Maths homework</b> involves a worksheet that consolidates/extends the learning for the week.</p> <p><b>R.E.:</b> Children will receive one piece of R.E. homework each half term.</p> <p><b>Ongoing:</b> Daily reading (10 minutes each night), Year 1 children: practise counting, number bonds to 10/20/100 Year 2 children: practise recalling facts for the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables.</p>	<p>Spellings are given out on Fridays and tested the following Friday.</p> <p>Maths homework is given out on Fridays and to be returned the following Friday.</p>
LKS2	<p><b>Spellings</b> are from the Year 3/4 word lists In addition, children receive <b>either</b> literacy or numeracy homework on alternate weeks.</p> <p><b>Week 1 Numeracy:</b> worksheet that consolidates/extends the learning for the week.</p> <p><b>Week 2 Literacy:</b> worksheet that consolidates/extends the learning for the week.</p> <p><b>R.E.:</b> Children will receive one piece of R.E. homework each half term.</p> <p><b>Ongoing:</b> Daily reading (10/15 minutes each night) Practise times tables in order and out of order. Practise division facts for the times tables</p>	<p>Spellings are given out on Fridays and tested the following Friday.</p> <p>Literacy or Numeracy homework is given out on Fridays and returned the following Thursday.</p>
UKS2	<p><b>Spellings</b> are from the Year 5/6 word lists</p> <p><b>Literacy:</b> a piece of work that consolidates/extends the learning for that week. The focus will usually be on grammar or reading comprehension.</p> <p><b>Maths:</b> an activity that consolidates/extends the learning for that week.</p> <p><b>R.E.:</b> Children will receive one piece of R.E. homework each half term.</p> <p><b>Ongoing:</b> Daily reading (at least 15 minutes each night) Practise times tables and division facts. Year 6 pupils will also be set tasks from their CGP books to support their revision for their SATs.</p>	<p>Spellings are given out on Mondays and tested the following Monday.</p> <p>Literacy homework is given out Mondays and to be returned the following Monday.</p> <p>Maths homework is given out on Thursdays and to be returned the following Thursday.</p>