



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

HOMework POLICY

Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff in consultation with parents and pupils and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. The policy is informed by our Mission Statement

Our Mission

"At St. Patrick's school we will provide excellence in education inspired by the practice of our Catholic Faith. We will make the most of all our gifts in our safe, happy and caring school. With Jesus Christ as our friend and model, we will help each other to grow in the love of God, developing self esteem, and a love of learning."

The policy supports the delivery of the vision for the school.

Our Vision

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School will be a model of educational excellence, consistently within the top 5% of schools in England. The School will have achieved this through the delivery of a creative and rigorous curriculum which inspires and motivates all our children to realise their God-given potential. Children will leave St Patrick's happy with who they are, confident in their abilities, polite and articulate, and ambitious for their future growth.

1. Principal Aims of this Homework Policy:

- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy, Literacy and RE.
- To encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

2. Subsidiary Aims of this Homework Policy

- To ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To raise standards of attainment through homework, and secure basic knowledge for the most vulnerable learners
- To improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- To encourage pupils and their parents or other adults deployed to support them to develop a love of learning; to share and enjoy learning experiences.

2. The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

3. The Content of Homework

RE homework, learning or writing prayers or studying the Wednesday Word, or preparing for liturgies and assemblies, or collecting food or sponsorship for charity occupies a central special place in the school's curriculum.

The following homework for Literacy and Numeracy will *usually* be set for each class

Nursery	Reading		Counting games
Reception	Reading	Learning Tricky Words Writing Sentences	Counting, adding, subtracting
Year 1	Reading	Learning Tricky Words Spellings	Counting, adding, subtracting
Year 2	Reading	Spellings and writing activities	Maths problems
Year 3	Reading Comprehensions	Spellings and Grammar or free writing	Maths problems
Year 4	Reading Comprehensions	Spellings and Grammar or free writing	Maths problems
Year 5	Comprehensions Reading	Spellings and Grammar or writing	Written methods for Maths
Year 6	Comprehensions Reading	Spellings and Grammar or writing	Written methods for Maths

Special homework will be set from time to time instead of or in addition to the above.

Reading for Pleasure

More important than perhaps anything else is reading.

Reading with your child and to your child.

The more the children enjoy reading and being read to, the more they are likely to want to read themselves.

Hearing your child read is vital. But just as important is reading to them. This should continue **after** the children have learned to read themselves.

Parents should not make reading sessions too long but have them frequently, daily if possible.

Parents and children should not feel burdened by this encouragement to read. If reading time is missed one night, then there is all the more reason for it to happen the next night.

4. Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school.

Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spellings and times tables.

The school recommends the following as appropriate time allocations for homework activities:

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week approximately

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week approximately

Years 5 and 6 – 2 hours per week approximately

These recommendations are in line with government advice.

Homework is usually set on a Friday and taken in the following Wednesday. Teachers are at liberty to vary this.

4. Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give

guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work or in the diary, at a parents' meeting or at an open evening.

- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes.
- To set homework that takes equal opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the taught curriculum.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework and give feedback to pupils, or to ensure that if the homework is marked someone other than the teacher, that feedback is accurate, helpful, and of the expected quality.

5. Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- To Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

6. Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning.

If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher or any other teacher who sets their child's homework.

Equal Opportunities:

The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, family circumstances, social, ethnic or linguistic background.

All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

Homework Clubs

The school runs several Homework Clubs which take place after school. These are staffed by senior teachers, some support staff and sixth formers from local secondary schools. Membership of these clubs is **by invitation only**.

Invitations are issued in line with the **principal aims of this policy** and with **our commitment to equal opportunities**.

If parents do not receive an invitation for a child to come to a homework club, and think he or she should have a place, they should raise the matter with the child's class teacher in the first instance.

**This policy should be read in conjunction with the Home School Agreement and other curriculum policies.
Policy adopted by Governing Body July 2015- To be reviewed May 2018.**