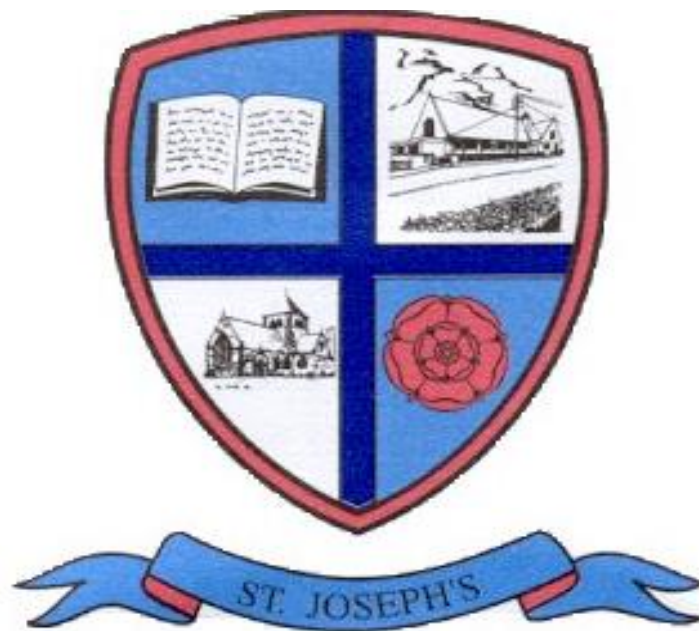


ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



HOMEWORK POLICY
Reviewed: February 2020
To be reviewed: February 2022



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, WRIGHTINGTON.
HOMEWORK POLICY

In order that our pupils can attain their full potential (*spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic*), we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Aims and Objectives:

Regular, well-planned homework can:

- Enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- Develop good work habits and self discipline for the future;
- Encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance;
- Help parents gain insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school;
- Provide opportunities for individualised work and develop skills of independent learning;
- Offer access to resources not found in school (public libraries, local museums etc.);
- Consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work.;
- Provide a context for pupil/parent interaction.
- Homework is seen as 'an essential part of good education that supports children's development as independent learners'.

We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

What is Homework?

Homework should not be a chore, but children should see it as an extension of their schoolwork. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual as homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- Reading with a parent;
- A family visit to a local museum;
- Finishing off work from the class;
- Undertaking individual research for a project at the local library;
- Learning number facts (tables);
- English activities both written and verbal;
- Being an active member of a sports club or youth organisation;
- Going swimming.

It can be seen from this list that homework can be a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home, but are delighted to learn about children's success in other aspects of their lives and will seek to recognise this in school.

When teachers set homework they will ensure that:

- It is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom;
- The task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities, especially for those pupils with special educational needs – I can statements are provided;
- Examples of working out are provided;
- Time scales for completion and submission are explicit;
- Work is marked as promptly as possible;
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly;
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated;
- The impact of homework upon the standards of children's attainment is monitored and included in the report to parents;
- Opportunities for the regular, formal evaluation of homework are provided for teachers, parents and children as part of the on-going consultation arrangements;

All children will be expected to complete tasks. They will be given an opportunity to succeed in this through using a homework session in school leisure time if they continually fail to complete it. In KS2 it is supported by a homework diary in which children and parents can note success and record any problems encountered. We ask that diaries are signed weekly by Parents, as they will be by the class teacher..

Types and amount of homework:

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school.

Government Guidelines on Homework:

Government guidelines on homework give a broad indication of the type of activities and how much time pupils of different ages might reasonably be expected to spend on homework.

For children at primary schools the guidelines are:

Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes per day

However, the guidelines emphasise that it is more important that homework helps your child to learn than whether it takes a certain amount of time. The guidelines encourage schools to plan homework carefully alongside the work children do at school, and to make sure that all activities are appropriate for individual children.

- Children in Y6 may be given more if it is felt it will support their learning as they approach the SATs;
- Children who do not complete their homework may be asked to stay in to do so at the teacher's discretion;
- If a child persistently does not complete homework then the teacher may contact the parents and ask to speak to them in order for school and home to work in partnership for the benefit of the child.

Homework Activities:

All homework activities should be related to work that children are doing at school. However, homework should not always be written work. For younger children it will largely be:

- ❖ Reading with parents or carers;

- ❖ Informal games to practice mathematical skills;

For older children homework activities may include:

- ❖ Reading;
- ❖ Preparing a presentation to the class;
- ❖ Finding out information;
- ❖ Making something;
- ❖ Trying out a simple scientific experiment;
- ❖ Cooking.

It doesn't matter if activities don't take as long as the guide times as long as they are useful.

The Role of Parents:

Parents need to discuss with their children the following questions:

- When is it a good time to do any homework?
- Where is the best place for homework to be done?
- What helps concentration?
- How long should my homework take me?
- Should I ask for help with my homework, even when it is finishing work started in class?
- Who should I ask for help and how much help should I expect?

The Homework home-school agreement raises awareness of the importance of homework to both you and your child and will help to address some of these questions. (**Appendix 1**).

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work. The boundary between what many parents see as constructive help and what children view as interference, is indistinct and can vary from day to day. Parents need to listen to the child's explanation of what they have to do and discuss the work their child is doing and whether or not help is needed plus what form this might take. If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, WRIGHTINGTON.
HOMEWORK POLICY AGREEMENT**

Dear Parents,

Below is an explanation of the homework policy for our school. Please review the policy with your child so that you better understand the expectations with regard to homework/out of class activities. By following these guidelines, we can help be consistent teaching responsibility and practicing homework to increase your child's learning. For your child to be successful completing homework/out of class activities, he/she needs:

A place to do homework. If possible, your child should do his/her homework in the same place (an uncluttered, quiet space—free from distractions).

A schedule for completing homework. Set a homework schedule that fits in with each week's particular activities. It is best to do homework as soon as your child comes home—the later the less effective the child will be at completing assignments.

Encouragement, motivation, and prompting. It is not a good idea to sit with your child and do homework with and/or for him/her. Your child needs to practice independently and apply what he/she has learned in class. If your child consistently cannot complete homework assignments alone, then I need to know this so I can adjust the task and/or activity accordingly.

Understanding of the knowledge. When your child is practicing a skill, ask which steps he/she finds easy and difficult and how he/she plans to improve speed and accuracy with the skill. If your child is working on a project, ask what knowledge he/she is using to complete the work. If your child consistently cannot answer these questions, please contact me.

Reasonable time expectations. Homework should be less than one hour. If your child is spending too much time each night on homework, please contact me.

A bedtime. It is important that your child gets a good night's sleep. When it comes time to go to bed, please stop your child, even if he/she has not finished the homework. Consider having your child start his/her homework earlier the next session.

Feedback: Your child's class teacher will review and give feedback for all homework assignments for both content and timeliness. If your child consistently turns in an assignment late, we will be contacting you to discuss and resolve this issue with you and your child.

Please return this policy with the appropriate signatures, acknowledging that you have read and discussed the policy with your child. If you have any questions about expectations, please contact school as soon as possible.

Parent signature

Child's signature