

Chorley, St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

Revised: April 2010

MISSION STATEMENT

St Mary's is a welcoming Christian community which upholds the values of justice, respect and equality and promotes enthusiasm for life and learning.

AIMS

- to establish clear guidelines which are understood by pupils and parents
- to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents
- to extend and support learning experiences
- to encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own
- to provide additional opportunities for parents and pupils to work together at home
- to prepare older children for the requirements of secondary school

Whilst we appreciate the value of homework it is equally important that children of all ages need time to develop through a wide range of activities such as play, participating in clubs etc. It is therefore important that children should not be overburdened with formal homework.

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

- Homework will be set by class teacher
- Homework will be set as and when appropriate to meet the demands of the curriculum
- Sufficient time will be given to complete homework. It will take into consideration other demands on the pupils and parents.
- Homework will be monitored by the class teacher and marked appropriately
- Homework will be planned to complement, complete and extend classroom learning
- Homework will be made available for all pupils

Homework will often focus upon reading, spelling and acquiring knowledge of and skills in using numbers (including number bonds and multiplication tables). In addition children may be asked to find information, carry out problem solving tasks and prepare oral and written presentation on specific topics.

For some children, homework will also involve tasks which should have been completed in curriculum time. This may be in addition to the homework required for the class.



HOMWORK GUIDE

The following is a guide to the homework task that may be set for different groups of children (not including uncompleted classroom tasks) :-

Reception: Most of the homework will focus on reading with children at home – approximately 10 minutes per night

Years 1 and 2: Most of the homework will focus on reading, spelling and basic knowledge of and skills in using numbers – approximately 10-15 minutes per night.

Years 3 and 4: Most homework will focus on reading, spelling and multiplication tables with some information gathering and problem solving – approximately 15 minutes per night.

Years 5 and 6: The homework will focus on reading, spelling and multiplication tables. There will also be time spent on finding information for a project during the year, some revision of information and mathematical problem solving and preparation for SATs – approximately 30 minutes per night.



TASKS FOR HOMEWORK

Tasks given for homework should:-

- have a very clear focus and time guideline
- give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed
- help development
- be varied – and not purely written assignments
- be manageable for teachers

FEEDBACK

Homework will receive appropriate feedback as quickly as possible. This may be through:-

- : classwork
- : tests
- : individual comments
- : reviewing homework in small groups
- : reading diaries

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The operation of the homework programme will be regularly monitored and the effectiveness in achieving its aims reviewed periodically, involving parents.

SPECIAL NEEDS

When possible children with Special Needs will receive homework that has much in common with other children in the class.

Children with special needs may be given tasks that are separate from the homework set for other children in class.

REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

- > All children will be encouraged to complete homework assignments.
- > Children will be rewarded through the present award system.



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

At St Mary's we recognise that partnership with parents is essential to the homework programme.

The school will maintain regular contact with parents through reading diaries, open evenings and feedback from parents as and when necessary.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which your child can do their homework
- make it clear to your child that homework is important and that it can help their learning
- encourage and praise your child when they have completed their homework
- take interest and become involved in homework activities
- give feedback to the teacher if your child had particular difficulty or took inappropriate time in completing the task
- comments at the end of a set task would be an appropriate way in which to communicate



with the class teacher.