

St. Paul's Roman Catholic Primary School



Homework Policy

This policy, after consultation with the LA and Governors, was adopted by the Governing Body of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Primary School and will be reviewed as and when necessary.

“Keep doing all the things you learned from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you”
Letter to the Philippians, ch. 4,v9

Reviewed January 2018

Mission Statement

"In Him we live and move and have our being"

This school is an overtly Catholic Community of faith. It bears witness to the Gospel values of mutual respect, love, forgiveness hope and development of the gifts and abilities which each one of us has.

The mutual active support of staff, children, parents and governors is needed to put these values into practice in the day to day living of the school.

Introduction:

We believe that homework is an important aspect of a child's education. It encourages children to realise that learning is an ongoing process which takes place in many different settings; it encourages independence and helps children to take responsibility for their personal progress. It also allows parents, carers and the school to work in partnership for the benefit of the child.

Following consultation with parents and carers it is evident that there is an appreciation of the value and importance of homework, however there is also some concern that homework tasks can be onerous and time-consuming which can have a negative impact on family life.

Similarly teaching staff feel that homework tasks can often have little impact on progress and would prefer to prioritise out of school learning on activities which are proven to demonstrate impact.

Children have a mixed opinion – some like homework, others don't. Some say they can complete activities independently, others need help and find this frustrating.

Therefore, this policy is written with the belief that it will build upon the strong partnership between home and school. We recognise that children need quality family time and opportunity for hobbies as well as opportunities to extend and consolidate school learning.

Aims of this policy:

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

Rationale for Homework

- Reading is essential – we hope that children will read daily and that reading for pleasure is valued at all times and not just confined to 'homework' reading. We will support parents and carers to ensure that they are able to fully support progression in reading expectations but first and foremost we hope that all of our children grow up in an environment where reading is valued.

- Phonic knowledge, word recognition and spelling – we know that opportunities to practise and learn on a one-to-one basis at home is beneficial. We will support parents and carers with resources and useful websites to help embed these essential skills.
- Number facts – rote learning of times tables is essential and has a huge impact on achieving highly in mathematics. Often home is the place where children can reinforce and embed times table facts. Once again, school will support parents and carers with resources and useful websites.
- As part of an inclusive curriculum, all children will be asked to complete other home learning tasks over a half-term. Each class teacher will provide a 'menu' of home learning activities from which children can select – some of these may be linked to class learning topics but all of the activities offered will be age appropriate and help children develop a range of skills and understanding. We believe that this will provide a great opportunity for parents and carers to work alongside their child, enhancing learning experiences. It will also help manage time pressures at home to ensure fulfilling, enjoyable activities.
- There will be regular opportunities to share and celebrate home learning activities in class. Feedback from children, parent and carers, and class teachers will help us review the effectiveness of our homework policy.
- Our Y6 pupils will continue to have frequent homework to support their learning and preparation for Statutory Assessment Tests. This will, on the whole, be instead of home learning tasks.

Implementing the Policy:

To ensure the success of the policy, it is essential that there is full support and commitment as established in the home-school agreement. It is our expectation that homework will be completed carefully and returned on time. Where homework is frequently missing or not completed, late or of poor quality, the child's parents or carers will be contacted.

The Headteacher and Governing Body will:

- Promote the homework policy to staff, parents and pupils
- Ensure all children are provided with equal access to homework regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnicity or home background.
- Monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy

Class teachers will:

- Ensure the homework policy is efficiently and effectively implemented in their class
- Communicate specific reading and mathematical tasks, relevant to the child's current stage of learning, through written correspondence with parents and carers and discussion with children
- Provide a range of home-learning activities to support the development of skills and knowledge
- Co-operate closely with other teachers to ensure progression of home learning expectations
- Provide opportunities to celebrate home learning
- Set high expectations of pupils

Parents and Carers should support their child by:

- Providing a suitable place where your child can do their home learning, somewhere reasonably peaceful, with supervision if appropriate
- Make it clear to your child that you value home learning, and support the school in explaining how it can help them progress
- Providing activities that support the activities set by the teacher
- Ensure and check that tasks are completed on time and to a suitable standard
- Being actively involved in joint homework activities with the children
- Contacting the children's class teacher if they have any questions

Pupils should:

- Do their best to complete tasks as instructed
- Ask for help as appropriate
- Gain increased motivation and enjoyment through home learning

Home learning should benefit children, parents and carers, and class teachers by providing support and information to enable pupils to build confidence and make progress.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring the effectiveness of the policy will be undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that homework is contributing to overall pupil learning and progress.

Policy Updated: January 2018

Review Date: Annually or sooner if required.