



St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Homework Policy

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Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Rationale for Homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper, 'Excellence in Schools', where homework was seen as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.

One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning. Homework also plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment.

However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. We believe that while homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school. This policy seeks to ensure a healthy balance between school work and free time.

Aims and Objectives

Part of our mission at St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy is to create good relationships between home and school. We believe that a strong partnership between school and home is at the heart of successful education. Regular, well-planned homework can:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- help pupils develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own and preparing them for the requirements of secondary education;
- promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- provide educational experiences not possible in school;

- consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- help children develop good work habits for the future;
- provide a contact for pupil / parent interaction;
- help parents gain an insight into their child's schoolwork.
- enable work to be personalised to the interest of individual children.

Types of Homework

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. At St George's, we provide a range of homework that is linked to the age of the child.

In the Foundation Stage, the children are encouraged to read daily and learn their letter sounds. When appropriate, they will be given spellings to learn, practical number activities to complete and letter formation practice.

In Year 1 and 2, the children will read daily to an adult and complete either a piece of English, Topic or RE work alongside a piece of Maths work in their homework books.

In Year 3 and 4, the children will continue to read daily to an adult, learn their weekly spellings, times tables or number facts and complete a weekly piece of Maths homework and English, Topic or RE work.

In Year 5 and 6, the children will read daily, learn their weekly spellings, times tables or number facts and complete a piece of Maths homework and English, Topic or RE work.

All homework is to be completed neatly in pencil.

Amount of Homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. In the Foundation Stage the main focus for homework is support with reading. We expect Key Stage 1 children (Years 1 & 2) to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent. We expect children in Years 3 and 4 to spend an average of 15–20 minutes per night on homework and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend an average of 30 minutes per night. This is in line with the DfEE guidelines that were issued in 1998.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework for pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to their 'Multi Element Plans' (MEPs) for guidance and often set tasks to support them towards achieving their MEP targets.

The Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them

with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents have any concerns or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the child's Phase Leader.

Equal Opportunities

All teaching and non-teaching staff at St George's are responsible for ensuring that all pupils, irrespective of gender, ability, ethnic origin and social circumstances, have access to the whole curriculum and make the greatest possible progress. All children have equal access to homework. Day to day monitoring of the Homework Policy and the provision of equal opportunities is the responsibility of the class teacher.

Monitoring

A class record is kept of children completing homework tasks. All homework is marked according to our marking policy. The quality of completed homework is monitored and reviewed regularly in consultation with pupils and parents, if necessary.

Celebration

Considerable emphasis is placed upon acknowledging and praising good work, for example, awards are given for homework in 'Achievement Assembly'. House points are also given via www.pupilrewardpoints.co.uk to recognise pupils' efforts. Parents are encouraged to praise their children as much as possible.

Deadlines and Non-completion of Homework

We ensure that homework is always set and collected in at the same time each week, so that children are used to the routine of completing their homework on time. Homework is always set on a Monday and collecting in on a Friday. This also allows the children to have their weekends free for family time.

We do expect that all children complete their homework on time and to the best of their abilities. Where homework has not been completed or handed in on time, on the first instance within a term, the child will receive a letter home asking for the homework to be completed that evening. The parent is to sign the form acknowledging the request. Should a second instance occur during the term, a further letter is sent home and the child is to complete the homework on the same day within the 'Learning Support Unit' at lunchtime. Should a third instance occur within the same term, a final letter is sent home inviting the parent/s to a meeting in school with the Class teacher and Phase Leader. The child would similarly be expected to complete their homework in the 'Learning Support Unit' over lunchtime on the same day.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the Curriculum and Standards committee. Parents' views are sought on a yearly basis about such matters as homework through the completion of a questionnaire.

Our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at that time, or in between times, by any parent.

All staff will monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy regularly.

Policy Review Date: September 2022