

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Purpose of Homework

- To provide pupils with further opportunities to consolidate, and reinforce skills, strategies and concepts.
- To help establish self-confidence and self-discipline and encourage the development of independent learning skills.
- To prepare for the child's future education and to establish a pattern of learning beyond the school environment.
- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents in achieving the aims of the school.

Homework should be a rewarding experience for children. The approach to homework should reflect the organisation and content of work in the classroom. Where groups are engaged in different activities it is expected that tasks set for homework will vary for each group and will reflect the children's varying abilities. Where whole class homework is set the expected outcomes would vary according to the ability of the children.

Homework assignments should be varied and reflect the themes and topics covered in class.

How often is homework given?

Homework is given weekly from the Foundation Stage through to KS2. It is given out on a Friday to be returned to school the following Thursday. This affords working parents the time at the weekend with their child supporting them in their homework and having the opportunity to become more involved in their child's education. It also encourages the children to become more independent and self-disciplined and to manage their time appropriately; spreading tasks and activities throughout the week as opposed to leaving it all to the night before. These skills will set them in good stead for their future learning. For older children homework should include opportunities for extended research for school projects using the Internet, local library and resources at home.

Homework should not be a burden to pupils or parents.

Occasionally as part of the school rewards system, pupils in Key Stage 2 may be awarded 'homework passes' which entitles the children to a night off homework.

Homework Content

- Homework given home on a Friday is based on the learning that has taken place that week; it is to consolidate and reinforce learning that has already taken place.
- Throughout the week children will have a balance of Literacy, Maths and reading and spelling activities. It may from time to time include topic based activities/research.
- It should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Independent reading is encouraged through the use of 'fun books' home as well as guided reading books sent home.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, phonics, mathematics, the learning of tables and essential mathematical facts. It will also include research, including internet research*, word processing, written work and art work.
- Class work not completed as a rule should not be sent home in addition to normal homework, unless requested by the parent.

*See School Policy in relation to Acceptable Use of the Internet

Duration of Homework

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines:

(This **guidance** for length of time to spend on homework includes reading homework.)

- Yr 1 - 15-20 mins
- Yr 2 - 20-25 mins
- Yr 3 - 20-30 mins
- Yr 4 - 30-35 mins
- Yr 5 - 30-40 mins
- Yr 6 - 40-50 mins
- Yr 7 - 50-60 mins

Parents

It is important that parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's work. Homework should be set at a level which, in general, the child is able to complete unaided. However, from time to time there will be homeworks that may require an input from both parent and child such as the Alive O programme.

Parents should follow the above guidance for time taken to complete homeworks and exercise their own judgement if these are exceeded. They are requested to sign the homework and to add comments, if they wish, in order to acknowledge the child's efforts.

If a child consistently is unable to submit homework the teacher should contact the parents to see if there are any specific problems.

Parents/Guardians should:

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupil should have the Homework Diary/Folder open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within the times recommended
- Sign the homework diary/book checking that all homework is complete
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework diary, books, pencils, P.E./swimming gear, if needed, for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework diary, book or note.
- Sign and date Friday assessments

Pupils should:

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary/book
- Ensure they take home relevant books and worksheets.
- Complete homeworks to the best of their ability.

- Present written work neatly and make sure it is signed by parents.

Teachers should:

- Explain to parents the homework policy at the September curriculum meeting
- Discuss with children homework procedures and good practice
- Set homework and provide feedback to pupils which should be positive and constructive and should acknowledge the child's efforts.
- Monitor homeworks for appropriateness, level and time taken
- Ensure pupils have recorded their homework in their homework diaries/books
- Ensure reading record books are kept up to date and signed & encourage pupils to record supplementary reading in the appropriate section

What happens when Homework is not done?

When homework is not done regularly the teacher will contact the parents (e.g. a note in homework diary) to discuss the situation.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Homework Policy

In order to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the homework policy a selection of homeworks will be collected each term to ensure variety, progression and differentiation are taking place.

In addition this homework policy will be reviewed annually.