



Homework Policy

Reviewed by: Curriculum & Standards Committee

Date of approval: November 2016

School's date for review: November 2017

Our mission statement

In our school, we aim to:

- Provide a stimulating and caring Christian environment in which children can gain in experience and understanding, and develop to the full their own talents and abilities within the tenets of the Christian faith.
- In this environment, they are encouraged to acquire both self-respect and respect for other members of the community, and to care for their local environment.
- Ensure that the children have a firm grasp of basic skills, and encourage the acquisition of these through interesting and stimulating work.
- Foster the development of an enquiring attitude towards work and to encourage the creative and imaginative ability of the child.
- Achieve a harmonious school atmosphere in which the child will identify strongly with the school and its objectives, including the links with All Saints Church.

Rationale

The aim of this document is to inform Parents and Governors about the homework set by the teachers in this school. We believe that homework makes an important contribution to pupils' progress at school, and that it helps children to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful, independent, lifelong learning.

We also recognise that homework should not prevent pupils taking part in after-school activities, such as sport, music and clubs. These activities are also beneficial. Indeed, we offer a wide range of after-school activities in addition to the normal curriculum.

What is homework?

In our school, the term 'Homework' refers to any 'home learning', work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own, or with parents or carers. Homework will include a wide range of tasks, which will be purposeful, enjoyable and varied, and ensure a balance of activities, such as:

- simple games
- reading together
- the learning of spellings and number facts
- completion of worksheets
- finding out information

- individual subject based topics
- reading in preparation for lessons
- preparing oral presentations
- short written tasks or assignments

Homework will not just mean formal exercises carried out by the children without the help of adults. In the case of younger children, it is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities which is most valuable. Homework given to older children will gradually increase in its demands, differentiated to take account of individual needs.

We aim to make homework manageable, and the class teacher is responsible for ensuring that the demands of the homework are reasonable for the pupils and parents/carers on a day to day basis. Regular patterns of homework are set. Please see the attached appendix.

What is the purpose of homework?

We believe that homework will:

- develop an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school.
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics.
- give opportunities for using a variety of learning resources at home.
- extend school learning, for example, through additional reading.
- encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own.

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. This will increasingly become its main purpose. In addition, regular homework assignments will prepare our Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

What happens to the homework?

Not all homework will be marked. Research, for example, may not be marked, but will contribute to a wider source of information to be made available within the classroom. Other homework may be marked, commented upon, and, in some cases, used as part of their topic or curriculum learning.

Whilst we recognise the value which homework can play in supporting class work, we are anxious that not too much time is spent in 'finishing off' written work, and that the homework tasks will not generate vast amounts of additional marking for the teacher on top of the marking generated from class work. Staff will review homework regularly in order to ensure consistent practice throughout the school.

How much time should be spent on Homework?

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of tasks set and the way they are planned to support learning.

The suggested time allocation for homework is as follows:

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|-----------------|---------------------|
| • Reception | 10-15 minutes daily |
| • Years 1 and 2 | 1 hour per week |
| • Years 3 and 4 | 1.5 hours per week |

For those who attend the school's Early Bird Club or Rising Star's Comet Club after school, provision can be made to offer children a space for completing their homework, if required.

In addition, the school sets a fortnightly online maths homework using MyMaths (<https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>). The school makes provision for any pupil whose family may not have access to the Internet at home. Children have an opportunity to complete their homework at school, thus ensuring equal opportunities.

How is Homework monitored?

So that everyone (pupils, teachers and parents/carers) know and understand what is expected, a dialogue is maintained either through the home/school reading record or through the homework diary. Parents are asked to record comments in either of these books.

The efficiency and effectiveness of homework will be considered formally by the teaching staff on an annual basis, and the policy reviewed accordingly.

As with all class work, members of the teaching staff can be available to answer queries at any time, preferably through making an appointment through the school office.



Homework Expectations and Arrangements by Year Group

Year Group	Homework	Time Allocation	Frequency	Day homework is set	Day homework is due in
Reception	Reading/Letter Sounds	10-15 mins	Daily		
	Word boxes	15 mins	Across the week		
	Big Maths Learn-Its	15 mins	Across the week		
Year 1	Reading	15 mins	Daily		
	Spelling	15 mins	Across the week		
	Big Maths Learn-Its	15 mins	Across the week		
Year 2	Reading	10 mins	Daily		
	Spelling activity	30 mins	Weekly	Wednesday	Monday
	Mathematics	30 mins	Weekly	Friday	Wednesday
	Big Maths Learn-Its	10 mins	3 x weekly		
Year 3	Reading	15-20 mins	Daily		
	Maths (written/online)	30 mins	Alternating weekly	Wednesday/Monday	Monday
	Handwriting	20 mins	Weekly	Thursday	Tuesday
	Spelling	10 mins	4 x weekly	Monday	Monday
Year 4	Reading	15-20 mins	Daily		
	Maths (written/online)	30 mins	Alternating weekly	Tuesday	Monday
	Spelling	30 mins	Weekly	Tuesday	Tuesday (Test)
Year 5	Reading	20 mins	Daily		
	Maths (written/online)	30 mins	Alternating weekly	Friday	Friday
	Spelling (list/activity)	30 mins	Weekly	Friday	Thursday
	Times tables/Big Maths/Spelling	5-10 mins	Daily		
	Research activities	30 mins	Weekly	Dependent on subject	Dependent on subject
Year 6	Reading	20 mins	Daily		
	Maths (written/online)	30 mins	Alternating weekly	Thursday	Monday
	Spelling	30 mins	Weekly	Friday	Thursday
	Maths/Science/Topic research activities	30 mins	Weekly	Dependent on subject	Dependent on subject