



Homework Policy

Reviewed by:	Staff and Curriculum & Standards Committee
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School's date for review:	November 2021

School Vision

'Walking together, discovering life'

The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35)

In our school, we aim to:

- Be a school community which supports one another on the journey of discovery and learning, where each child feels safe, valued and known.
- Provide an inspiring Christian environment in which our values shape each member and are evident in the life of the school, as well as in their actions and advocacy in the world.
- Invite children and staff to gain from the wisdom of Christian teaching and worship whilst being respectful of those of other faiths and none.
- Foster the development of an enquiring attitude towards learning and, through stimulating opportunities, encourage children, whatever their ability, to be the best that they can be.
- Encourage a love and care of creation, our neighbours near and far, and value our strong 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
- online tasks

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:

- Reception 10-15 minutes daily
- Years 1 and 2 1 hour per week
- Years 3 and 4 1½ - 2 hours per week
- Years 5 and 6 2½ - 3 hours per week (equates approximately to 30 minutes each day)

The setting of homework for children with special educational needs will be carried out with sensitivity and in close discussion between class teachers, the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and parents/carers. Tasks will have a clear focus and time guideline, and will give plenty of opportunities for the pupil to succeed. Activities will be set which will help to develop social and other skills and will be varied. The school will ensure that these tasks, as with other homework tasks, are manageable for all concerned.

Home School Reading

Daily reading can and should often form part of a child's homework, and for Reception children this will be the main focus. This should continue to be a key focus for children throughout the school and parents' involvement in reading to/with their child, listening to them read regularly or discussing a child's reading with them is hugely important to their development and progress across all areas of the curriculum.

Our school promotes a life-long love of books and champions the importance of reading through a wide range of reading materials and experiences.

We know that children succeed as effective and enthusiastic readers when they are encouraged to regularly share books at home by both reading aloud and discussing texts with adults.

We promote home-school reading by:

- Ensuring pupils have a 'school' reading book appropriate to their age and stage of reading competency to bring home every day.
- Ensuring that pupils have a reading record book - which provides written, up-to-date, two-way communication.
- Encouraging pupils to use a book bag (which may be purchased from Kids Connection) to transport books to and from home.
- Encouraging parents to hear their child read every day as they become fluent readers and to continue to share books regularly throughout their school years.
- Communicating with parents about how the teaching of reading is organised in school e.g. information sessions on the teaching of phonics.
- Communicating with parents about the progress their child is making in reading, through Parent Consultation Evenings, the annual written report and at any point in the year, by appointment with class teachers.
- Informing parents about wider opportunities to nurture their children's love of reading, such as school initiatives (Upper School Book Group, book fairs, Book Week, Storytelling Week) and those in the local community (Summer Reading Scheme and other library events).

How can parents/carers support pupils?

We ask that parents and carers provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework - alone, or more often for younger children, together with an

adult. We ask that parents make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and that they support the school in explaining how it can help learning. It is good when parents encourage their children and praise them when they have completed their homework.

For those who attend the school's wraparound care provided by Rising Stars (Morning and After School Club), 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) knows and understands 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 Name writing	10-15 mins	Daily		
	Word boxes				
	Focused Show & Tell	10 mins	When linked to the curriculum		
Year 1	Reading	10 mins	Daily		
	Spelling	15 mins	Weekly	Monday	Friday
	Mathematics (reinforcement)	30 mins	Weekly	Friday	
Year 2	Reading	10 mins	Daily		
	Spelling activity	30 mins	Weekly	Friday	Wednesday
	Mathematics	30 mins	Weekly	Friday	Wednesday
Year 3	Reading	10 mins	5 x weekly		
	Maths (written/online) Times tables	30 mins 20 mins	Alternating weekly Weekly	Monday Tuesday	Monday Tuesday
	Spelling	10 mins	2 x weekly	Monday	Monday
	Research activities	30 mins	Occasionally	Dependent on subject	Dependent on subject
Year 4	Reading	10 mins	5 x weekly		
	Maths (written/online)	30 mins	Alternating weekly	Friday	Friday
	Times tables/TT Rockstars	20 mins	Weekly	Friday	Friday
	Spelling	30 mins	Weekly	Tuesday	Tuesday
Year 5	Reading	20 mins	Daily		
	Maths (written/online)	30 mins	Alternating weekly	Friday	Thursday
	Spelling (list/activity)	30 mins	Weekly	Friday	Thursday
	Times tables/Big Maths	5 mins	Daily		
	Research activities	30 mins	Occasionally	Dependent on subject	Dependent on subject
Year 6	Reading	20 mins	Daily		
	Maths (written/online)	30 mins	Alternating weekly	Friday	Thursday
	Times tables/TT Rockstars	10 mins	Daily		
	Spelling	30 mins	Weekly	Friday	Thursday
	Maths/Science/Topic research activities	30 mins	Occasionally	Dependent on subject	Dependent on subject