



ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Our school is a place of learning
A place of love

Homework Policy

At St Paul's Catholic School we believe parents are the most important people in their child's development and children whose parents are involved with their education make consistent progress throughout their school life. Homework encourages parents to work with their children and engage in their learning. The amount of homework and its purpose changes as a pupil progresses through the school.

Aims of Homework

- To encourage parental involvement in their child's learning.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly in literacy and maths.
- To develop research skills.
- To foster a responsible attitude to learning.
- To help pupils become independent learners.
- To extend learning beyond the classroom.
- To promote the skills of memory.

All homework is set taking account of the range of ability within a class and marked appropriately, if handed in on time.

Parents are encouraged to ensure that their child spends an appropriate time on a homework exercise.

The role of parents and carers in supporting pupils

In general terms parents and carers should be encouraged to;

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework – alone or more often for younger pupils with an adult.
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.

Special Educational Needs

Setting appropriate homework for pupils with special educational needs, which does not demand too much or too little of pupils and their parents needs close co-ordination between class teachers, the SENCO and parents. Tasks should:

- Have a very clear focus and time guidance.
- Give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed.
- Help develop social as well as other skills where necessary
- Be varied and not purely written assignments
- Be manageable for teachers.

Type and quantity of homework

The government recommends that the main focus of homework for children in primary school should be on literacy and numeracy, with other work added to the homework programme for older junior children.

Literacy

The government expects that parents will hear their child read frequently at home to practise the skills of reading taught in school. This should be for at least 10 to 20 minutes a day. A Reading Record Book is provided for parents to enable them to communicate to school any comments about their child's reading practice. These record diaries are checked by teaching assistants.

Spellings

Each pupil from years 1 – 6 will be given a set of ten spellings each week (these can follow a spelling pattern or be topic words). The pupils will be asked to learn these spellings, using the Look, Cover, Write, Check method, put them into sentences or a piece of writing. The children will then be tested on these spellings during the week and the results sent home. Children in Reception will be given spellings in the Summer Term.

Numeracy

Throughout the school the children are asked to learn number bond patterns/times tables as appropriate for the age of the children. A piece of maths homework will also be set each week. This will consolidate learning in class and either be My Maths or a worksheet

Other Homework

At other times, homework may be set linked to RE, theme or research.

Homework Timing Guidelines

The government recommends the following time allocations for homework. This is only a guideline, and whilst the school endeavours to follow these guidelines carefully, there may be times when this guidance is modified or changed.

Key Stage 1 Years 1 and 2	1 hour a week This includes daily reading, spellings and number bonds or times tables.
Lower Key Stage 2 Years 3 and 4	1 ½ hours a week This includes daily reading, spellings and number bonds or times tables.
Upper Key Stage 2 Years 5 and 6	30 minutes a day This includes daily reading, spellings and number bonds or times tables.

Amount of Homework

Nursery	Practical activities as suggested by the Nursery staff.
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading • list of words to learn by sight • maths investigation occasionally. • in the Summer term 5 spellings.
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (minimum of 10 minutes) • number bonds, 10 spellings (tested weekly) with one or two words to be written in one or two sentences. • One piece of maths – either My Maths or worksheet.
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (minimum of 10 minutes), • number bonds/times tables (tested weekly), • 10 spellings (tested weekly) with five words to be written in five sentences. • One piece of maths – either My Maths or worksheet.
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (minimum of 15 minutes) • number bonds/times tables (tested weekly) • 10 spellings (tested weekly) with six to ten words to be written in six to ten sentences • One piece of maths – either My Maths or worksheet.
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (minimum of 15 minutes) • number bonds/times tables (tested weekly) • 10 spellings (tested weekly) with words to be written in ten sentences or piece of writing • One piece of maths – either My Maths or worksheet.
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (minimum of 20 minutes) • times tables (tested weekly) • 10 spellings (tested weekly) to be included in a piece of writing, for example a story, newspaper account, report • One piece of maths – either My Maths or worksheet.
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (minimum of 20

	minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • times tables (tested weekly) • 10 spellings (tested weekly) to be included in a piece of writing, for example a story, newspaper account, report • One piece of maths – either My Maths or worksheet • One piece of grammar/ punctuation work.
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Other homework, for example RE, research or theme may also be set at various times during a term.

Home/School Diaries

Pupils in KS2 are expected to write the homework that is to be completed in their home/school diaries.

Homework Support

A homework club, run by members of staff, is available for Years 3 – 6.

Homework Feedback

We recognise that pupils benefit from feedback on their homework as soon as possible. This could be verbal from the teacher to the child, marked by an adult or self marked by the pupil under the direction of the teacher or teaching assistant. Teachers do not always have time in the school day to mark individual children’s homework.

Absences

When children are absent from school for medical reasons or unavoidable holiday leave, it is not school policy to supply homework for these periods. Where children are absent for a longer period due to medical reasons, homework may be set following discussions with parents. Each case will be treated on an individual basis.

Homework that is not completed

If a pupil does not complete homework on three occasions the class teacher will discuss the matter with parents to see if support can be provided or other measures put in place to ensure work is completed. If homework is still not being completed then the matter will be raised with the Headteacher and homework may no longer be set for that child.

Parental Feedback and Monitoring

Class teachers are responsible for the day to day monitoring of homework set. Key Stage Leaders are responsible for the general monitoring of homework provision within their department. Any concerns regarding homework should be discussed with the class teacher first, the Deputy Headteacher if the situation is not resolved and then the Headteacher.

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