

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bingley



Homework Policy

Our Vision

'Learning with Jesus, to be the best we can be'

Date written: May 2016

Reviewed: September 2017

Review: September 2018

Introduction:

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of homework at St. Joseph's. It reflects the consensus of opinion of the teaching staff, is the result of staff discussion and is fully supported by the Governing Body. Children were also consulted and their opinions and views have been taken into consideration when writing this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of all the teaching staff.

What are the aims of the policy?

- ◆ To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school
- ◆ To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework
- ◆ To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework

What is the purpose of homework?

- ◆ To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding
- ◆ To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together
- ◆ To allow parents to gain an understanding of what the children are learning in school
- ◆ To allow children to progress to become independent learners
- ◆ To develop positive attitudes and skills required for life long learning

What is the role of the teacher?

- ◆ To plan and set a programme of homework that is matched to the needs of the children
- ◆ To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given
- ◆ To be available to discuss with parents and children the homework given
- ◆ To inform parents if there is a problem regarding their child's homework

What is the role of the parent?

- ◆ To support the child when completing homework
- ◆ To provide the appropriate conditions/resources for their child to complete their homework
- ◆ To inform the school of any problems with the homework **before the due date**
- ◆ To ensure that their child takes full responsibility for their homework and not support their child's excuses when homework is not done or handed in on time

What is the role of the child?

- ◆ To ensure they have everything they need to complete the homework given
- ◆ To make sure they understand the task set and ask if they are unsure
- ◆ To inform the teacher if they have a problem **before they hand the homework in**
- ◆ To hand the homework in on time
- ◆ To complete tasks to the best of their ability, to a high standard, including presentation

Reading Homework:

Every child will receive reading homework.

In Reception children may be given picture books. It is important that the pictures are discussed and explored with the children, and children are given the opportunity to describe what is happening and to make up their own story. When they are ready, children will be given books with words. Encouraging your child to point to the words while reading is important, as is discussing the pictures, characters and what is happening. Questioning the story will help the children's comprehension and understanding of language.

Reading is about readiness and children progress at different rates. Insisting your child move up the reading scheme at a faster pace puts pressure on them and the staff and does not develop the necessary comprehension of the texts. Staff will always take into account the child's comprehension of the book read and whether it has been signed by a parent before changing it. Books will be changed once a week unless there is a problem in school. Older children with longer stories may need more time. It is vital that older children read at home too and continue to discuss their understanding about structure, syntax and style and to develop their comprehension. Hearing your child read shows to them that reading is a pleasurable experience.

Learn by Heart Targets:

From Year 1 the children will receive some key Numeracy facts to learn off by heart. These are age and ability appropriate and range from times tables to number bonds. These are very important and will underpin the written calculations taught in class. To increase speed and skills in mental and written maths, learning and rehearsing these targets 'by heart' is vital. Parents can support these targets by spending time practising them at home (examples are always given). Not all of them will need the children to write responses, some just need to be practised and rehearsed. Therefore, all parents should sign the children's homework books when these have been completed to show that the target has been practised.

Homework to be given:

Foundation Stage:

Reading
Phonics work
Key Words
Optional: weekly story bags or maths game.

Year 1:

Reading
Phonics / Key Words
Mental 'Learn by Heart' facts
There may be times when children are asked to find something out or bring something in to support work being done in class.

Year 2:

Reading
Phonics / Key Words
Mental 'Learn by Heart' facts
Plus one topic research project
There may be times when children are asked to find something out or bring something in to support work being done in class.

Year 3 and 4:

Reading
Spellings / Key Words
Mental 'Learn by Heart' facts
One other piece of homework each week (30 minutes max)
Plus one topic research project

Year 5 and Year 6:

Reading
Spellings / Key Words
Mental 'Learn by Heart' facts
One piece of written maths or English homework each week. (45 minutes)

How can parents find out more about homework?

Teachers will endeavour to make all instructions clear and that the children understand their task. In addition, staff will answer any queries about homework that parents may have. To help parents, homework will be set and collected on the same day each week.

What if a child says they have received no homework?

There may be occasions when homework is not set, e.g. if a teacher is away, but we will try to avoid that happening. All homework should be initialled in the children's book to show it has been seen by a parent/ guardian.

How will homework be marked?

It will be the responsibility of teachers to mark the children's work in a variety of ways, in line with school's marking policy. Generally, homework will be ticked by the teacher with a brief comment to show that they have checked it. On other occasions the work may be marked orally with the children and there might not be evidence from the teacher in the child's book. Teachers will not mark work that is handed in late or that is not of a good enough standard. Please ensure that work is completed in pencil or blue pen (for KS2). Felt tips, gel pens, black pens etc should not be used.

Late or uncompleted homework:

The expectation is that all children will complete all homework to the best of their ability and to a high standard. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework. If there are problems with children regularly missing homework, parents will be contacted to discuss the matter. There may be occasions when a child may miss their playtime in KS2 if they have not completed their homework. If a child is absent on the day the homework is set, in KS2 it is their responsibility to obtain a copy.

Signed: Date: