

*St. John the Baptist
RC Primary School*



Home Learning Policy

St John the Baptist Roman Catholic Primary School
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Approved	Autumn 15	L Hamilton
Renew	Autumn 17	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

St John the Baptist is a small Catholic Primary School of approximately 80 pupils in the parish of Dartmouth. We are also part of Plymouth Catholic Anglican Schools Trust (CAST) a Multi-chain Academy Trust comprising 35 Catholic and Anglican Primary and Secondary schools spanning Devon, Dorset and Cornwall. In each year there are a number of children identified with Special Educational Needs. There is a wide social mix and very varied family backgrounds including single parent and children from a range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. St Johns cover an urban residential area and also has children who travel in from local outlying villages. The school has an active Parent Teacher Association.

Introduction

At St John the Baptist Primary School we recognize and value the contribution that learning in the home environment can make to children's education. This policy sets out the purpose of and benefits of home learning, and the guidelines we follow when setting home learning activities for our children.

Aims:

Our school believes that home learning should:

- Involve parents and carers in their child's education
- Have a clear learning focus
- Give plenty of opportunities for children to succeed
- Be planned by teachers alongside the other elements of children's learning
- Consolidate and reinforce a wide variety of skills and understanding in a supportive environment
- Extend in school learning
- Be varied-not just written tasks
- Provide children with the opportunity to learn in different settings
- Reflect a range of learning styles
- Develop progressively according to the age of the children
- Encourage children to talk about what they are learning
- Encourage children to develop the self-confidence and discipline needed to study independently
- Prepare children for the transition to secondary school

- Be manageable for teachers
- Where possible, tasks will have a clear learning intention and success criteria, in line with our teaching and learning policy, to enable every child to succeed with their home learning tasks

Guidance for setting Home Learning

All Home Learning is linked to work done in class and is completed in a Home Learning Book. This may consist of activities to consolidate and re-enforce what has been learnt in a lesson, or investigation work linked to a topic. To establish a regular routine, Home Learning is given out and collected in on the same days each week.

Home Learning should be set at an appropriate level for each child so that it can be completed independently, or if adult support will be required, clear instructions should be provided to help adults support learning effectively.

Activities should have clear learning intentions and give opportunities for children to succeed and progress. Home Learning time should not be spent “finishing off” work done in class. Teachers should ensure that the demands of Home Learning are manageable for all children, taking into account the need for differentiation.

Topics, key learning objectives and Maths and Literacy targets for each half term, should be given to parents and carers to help them support their child’s learning.

In ‘Meet the Teacher’ meetings at the start of each year, the Home Learning content and timings for that year group should be discussed, and expectations on standards made clear. The value of Home Learning should be stressed to parents.

Home Learning is monitored by teachers and written or verbal feedback is given to maintain motivation (see feedback and marking policy).

The main focus for Home Learning at St John the Baptist Primary School is in basic skills in English and Maths including calculations. On occasions, Science and Topic based learning may be given.

Foundation	Reading with an adult	10 minutes a night Phonics
Year 1		
Year 2		
Year 3		
Year 4		
Year 5		
Year 6		

Spelling activities and investigation work are set according to the level your child is working at in phonics.

Mental maths home learning activities are designed to consolidate mathematical facts taught in class. We advise the ‘little and often’ approach to practicing mental maths skills, for example, practicing number bonds on a car journey or reciting timestables during a walk. The number facts set must be learnt by heart, and with immediate recall, rather than allowing the child the opportunity to work the answer out in their head.

The children in each year group are provided with a timetable showing which day Home Learning will be given out and which day it is expected to be in school. These are published on the school website.

In addition to the weekly tasks set, there are optional half termly home learning tasks in every year group which children are welcome to undertake should they wish to do so. These tasks are more research and project based, but provide stimulating and relevant tasks for those children who may manage to complete their set homework very quickly. As these tasks are optional there is no deadline to return them to school, but your child’s class teacher will mark them and provide feedback to the children in the same way as they do with the compulsory home learning tasks.

High quality home learning is celebrated within the classroom and at termly achievement assemblies.

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High quality home learning is celebrated within the classroom and at the weekly achievement assemblies.

Pupils are expected to complete homework tasks in the time scales specified.

Monitoring:

The Senior Leadership Team are responsible for monitoring the home learning policy. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in setting home learning, for being informed about current developments in the area, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the area in the school.