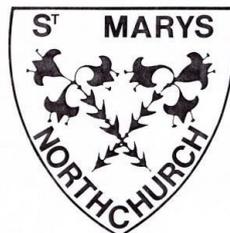


*Excellence Together, Learning Through Faith.*



# St Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School

To be a caring, inclusive, Christian environment, nurturing a life-long love of learning where we can work together to learn, to grow, to serve. We are proud to support the whole community and by collaborating will enable all children and adults within it to live fully whilst 'shining brighter and brighter' Proverbs 4:18.

St Mary's is an inclusive school where we believe that all people are of equal value, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, ability or sexual identity. We recognise and respect their differences.

## Homework Policy

This policy is GDPR compliant.

Date of issue: July 2020

Last reviewed/adopted: July 2020 (Academic Standards Committee)

Next review date: Summer 2022

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Homework is an important part of the partnership between parents and school at St Mary's. We believe that homework is important because:

- It improves your **child's** thinking and memory
- It helps your **child** develop positive study skills and habits that will serve him or her well throughout life
- Involves you as parents in your child's development and learning
- It enables children to explore, investigate and lead their own learning.

### **Aims**

This policy will ensure that:

- We develop a successful partnership between school and parents or carers
- There is consistency of approach to homework across the school
- Pupils, parents and teachers are clear about what is expected of them and that children are prepared for their homework
- There are high expectations of pupils completing homework

### **Type and amount of homework through the school**

The homework set will depend on the age and stage of the child and there is flexibility to allow for different needs.

**Regular reading is the most important of all homework activities**, from sharing books to reading independently, reading is vital for all children and needs to become a habit. **All** children should be involved in a daily reading activity which would involve discussing and sharing ideas and text. Pupils who can read independently should still read aloud to someone to enable discussion and to practice expression. Children in all year groups have a reading record and class teachers will monitor these weekly to ensure regular home reading is taking place. Children who read at home regularly are rewarded with stamps, stickers and certificates.

It is also important that spellings and tables are practised 'little and often' and children need their parents' help and active support for this.

### **How homework is organised**

Children in Nursery and Reception will be provided with a reading book appropriate to their level. Children in Reception class may also be given short activities to complete at home with adult support. Children in Reception will be offered the opportunity to join in with whole school homework projects and in the Summer term may be given a few activities to support the learning. At the beginning of each half-term the children in Years 1-6 will be provided with a Homework Menu which will offer a range of activities to be completed weekly. Alongside this menu children will also be given maths (e.g. times tables) and spelling activities.

Homework is not supposed to be onerous and, as a guide, should take no more than an hour a week in Key Stage 1 and two hours a week in Key Stage 2.

### **Homework Management**

The class teacher will be responsible for the setting and organisation of homework for their class. In Years 1-6, homework will be set on Thursday and returned on Monday of the following week.

## **The role of parents/carers in supporting pupils**

We would like parents to:

- Show your children that you value homework by taking an active interest in the work they do at home.
- Encourage your child to do their best work for homework and expect it to be of a high quality.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed their homework
- Actively make time to spend helping your child with homework activities including spelling, reading and maths activities.
- Check book bags regularly for sheets and letters.
- Inform the teacher immediately if you have homework concerns.

## **Reading record books**

Parents/Carers are invited to write about their child's daily reading activities and progress with homework activities by writing in the Reading Record book.

In addition to this, children in Years 1 and 2 have a Home School Link Book. Comments from parents/carers or teachers about any aspect of the child's life at school can be written in the Home School Link Book. Parents should sign the book when a comment has been read and/or written.

## **Feedback for pupils**

Homework that is consolidation of class learning is acknowledged by using stampers or stickers. Longer pieces of homework and projects will be marked by the class teacher.

## **Absence**

Pupils who take holidays during term time will not be provided with homework or additional tasks during their absence.

## **Homework Club**

In normal circumstances, Homework Club will run each week after school. Children who wish to attend may do so in order to receive time and support to complete their homework at school.

## **Monitoring and evaluating the homework policy**

All teachers will have a copy of the homework policy and will be familiar with it. The Headteacher may ask to see samples of homework from time to time. If a parent has concerns with homework they should see the class teacher in the first instance and then the Headteacher if necessary.