



St. Basil's

Catholic Primary School

'We love, learn and succeed together'

Homework Policy



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Children who are supported at home do better at school

Parents are important partners in their children's learning

At St Basil's we are very committed to building strong home/school links. We know that education is most effective where there is a positive partnership between home and school. We hope that homework/learning at home will increase a child's enjoyment of learning and his/her understanding. We know that it is crucial that we offer support to parents so that there is a better understanding of how learning can be further extended at home. In this policy homework refers to any work or activity which children are asked to do outside of lesson time, usually with parents or carers.

Through our policy we aim to:

- Encourage a positive attitude to learning
- Consolidate and extend learning experiences and raise attainment
- Motivate learners
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and school to work in partnership
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility preparing year 6 learners for secondary transfer

Teachers will undertake to:

- Set homework which is varied, has a clear focus and takes into account the differing ability levels of the pupils in the class.
- Make sure that homework extends and consolidates work that has been done in class and mainly focuses on the areas of literacy and numeracy.
- Inform parents if children regularly fail to do their homework or if it is below the expected standard for that child.
- Praise achievement and ensure that all homework is marked as soon as possible.

Parents will undertake to:

- Encourage their child to do their homework regularly
- Ensure that reading is carried out at home every night
- Provide a reasonably quiet place in which children can do their homework
- Engage with homework by asking their child to explain what work has been completed and what they have learnt

- Encourage and praise their child when homework is done
- Talk to the school if there are problems with homework

Children will undertake to:

- Carry out homework tasks as directed by their teacher
- Read every night at home
- Explain homework tasks and what has been learnt to their parents

Progression

All children will be encouraged to undertake homework from Reception to Year 6

English and Maths skills across the curriculum

We use a set of progressive spelling throughout school to support a spelling programme, related to the National Curriculum 2014 year group expectations. English will be set to support both reading and writing skills. Maths will be set to develop mental maths and problem solving activities. It will also consolidate skills taught in class. Parents can support their child to develop fast recall of number bonds to 10 and 20, then 100, and then tables to 12 x 12. By Y4 children are expected to be able to recall all their tables. It is also valuable to develop skills in real life contexts so children make links with their learning e.g. cooking to develop maths skills relating to weight, using time tables for trains and buses, telling the time, finding focussed sight words in books/ magazines/ newspapers. Guidance on age group expectations can be found on the school website.

Recommended time allocation for homework from the DCSF:

Years 1 and 2 – 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 – 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 – 30 minutes per day

Homework Timetable

A reading timetable will be set by the class teacher and communicated by letter at the start of the year.

Maths homework will be set on a Monday to be returned by Wednesday.

English homework will be set on a Wednesday to be returned on a Friday.

Learning Challenge homework will be set on a Friday to be returned by Monday.

Spellings will be set weekly.

Early years – Reception

Our Reception children are encouraged to read every night with an adult.

They may also complete an English and / or maths activity each week. The activities will consolidate basic skills that the children are learning in class and will enable children to share activities with parents and carers.

Years 1 and 2

Children are encouraged to read every night with an adult.

English, Maths and Learning Challenge activities are set every week. We ask parents and carers to work with and support their children with these activities.

Years 3 and 4

Children are encouraged to read at home every night. We ask that adults at home question them about their reading.

English, Maths and Learning Challenge activities will be set every week. We ask parents and carers to work with and support their children with these activities.

Years 5 and 6

Children are encouraged to read at home every night. This reading may be books (both fiction and non-fiction) and/or newspapers. We ask that adults at home ask questions about their reading to check understanding.

English, Maths and Learning Challenge activities will be set every week. We ask that parents/carers encourage their children to work as independently as possible on the activities provided.

It is expected that, up to Year 4, parents will work with and support children with their homework. From Year 5 onwards, children will be expected to work more independently to prepare them for secondary education

All children have reading diaries which are used for recording books taken home and any dialogue with parents.

We expect children to take pride in the presentation of their homework, as they do their work in school. Work should always be completed in pencil and a ruler should be used to underline dates and title, or to draw straight lines.

Equal Opportunities and Additional Needs

Homework activities will be differentiated, where appropriate, to ensure the needs of pupils are best met. Work/ projects produced by children is valued and celebrated through display, discussion, assemblies

What will happen if children don't complete their homework?

If a child has difficulty with the work, then we would expect them to ask for support from the class teacher before the due date to ensure they are able to complete the work, or alternative work can be given. This is useful information as it informs the teacher about the independent capabilities of the child.

The expectation is that children will complete their homework. However, if for any reason children are unable to complete their homework, parents or carers should provide the class teacher with a note or contact the class teacher explaining why the homework has not been completed on the day that the homework was due to be returned to school.

Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. A comment will be made on the children's termly report.

There may be occasions where the child will miss some playtime or lunchtime, if they have not completed homework.

To support with the completion of homework, the school operates a weekly homework club for children in KS2, children need to sign up for these at the beginning of each half term.

Useful equipment to have at home:

Pens, pencils, ruler, colouring pencils, dictionary, thesaurus

Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy:

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the governors.