

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Axminster

Homework Policy



Due for Review every year

Reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee

Last reviewed June 2011

Reviewed and adopted July 2014

School Mission Statement:

To educate and to develop every child's potential within our Catholic School Family.

Rationale

At St Mary's, we aim to be a happy, caring and compassionate Catholic community where every child's gifts are developed to the full and the foundations for lifelong learning are laid down. Homework is an integral part of this vision because, used properly, it reinforces the children's learning as well as making a significant contribution to the development of their independent learning skills.

Homework refers to any work or activity which pupils are asked to do by their teacher outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

The Aims of Homework

- to provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together, to enjoy learning experiences and to exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home.
- to encourage the development of positive attitudes towards learning among children.
- to support children's learning opportunities via reinforcement and revision, particularly in maths, English and science, as well as pre-learning tasks (prior to the start of a new topic) or a self study activity.
- to develop children's research skills and promote independent learning.
- to share with parents the expectations we have regarding their child.
- to assist in the development of different learning skills, such as reading and ICT.
- to equip the pupils (particularly in upper Key Stage 2) with the self-discipline needed to study on their own and to prepare them for the increased demands of secondary school homework,

Features of Homework

Homework should:

- have a clear purpose to the pupil
- be accessible to all those for whom it is set and differentiated according to ability where appropriate; it must include clear instructions
- encourage the pupil to work independently of school.

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- be achievable by the designated deadline.

Homework that is set for pupils may support and complement the pupil's class work, may be extension work or may be additional pupil development work. The amount of homework pupils receive reflects the stage they have reached in their schooling and in their personal and academic development.

We believe that homework is a very valuable enhancement to the child's learning. We do not expect family life to be disrupted through homework and therefore homework should take no longer than 20 minutes a week in Key Stage 1 and 40 minutes a week in Key Stage 2. We expect children to have **done their best** with each piece of homework.

A chart of the expectations in terms of task and time allocations for each year group can be found overleaf. Information is also sent out in curriculum newsletters at the beginning of each term. Our 'Home and School Books', or your child's homework activity books, are used to keep a record of each homework task and may be used to record any relevant comments such as praise for excellent work or a note of difficulties encountered, to enable parents and teachers to work together.

Equal Opportunities

Teachers will have regard to the school's Equality Policy when setting homework. In particular teachers will need to be sensitive and aware of the need to balance activities to meet the needs of all learners taking account of gender, racial, cultural and religious issues.

Homework should also be used, where possible, to celebrate the individual backgrounds of pupils and promote an understanding for and appreciation of the diversity of cultures and ethnicity of the people who make up our society.

Pupils should not be disadvantaged by the activities set due to their economic circumstances. For example, alternative arrangements need to be made for computer based homework if some pupils have no easy access to one.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with St Mary's Policies for:

- **Safeguarding Children and Child Protection**
- **Teaching and Learning**
- **Positive Behaviour and Discipline**
- **Equality**
- **All Curriculum related Policies**

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HOMEWORK SCHEDULE : ACADEMIC YEAR 2014 – 15

Class	English	Maths	Other
Kingfisher Class Year R/1	Reading – 5 minutes daily Phonics – weekly plus daily practice.	Practise around the home.	Reading Books changed Monday, Wednesday, Friday once read.
Hummingbirds Class Year 1/2 <i>Homework given out on Friday to be returned on Wednesday.</i>	English or Maths or Topic task weekly. Phonics/spelling (Monday) Times Tables (Monday) Daily reading		
Owls Class Year 3/4 <i>Homework given out on Friday to be returned on Thursday.</i>	English or Maths weekly Daily reading		Topic or Science occasionally.
Falcons Class Year 4/5 <i>Homework given out on Friday to be returned on Tuesday.</i>	English weekly, linked to class work or reading. Daily reading	Maths problem or puzzle weekly.	Occasional topic research
Eagles Class Year 5/6	English task due on Thursday. Daily reading	Times Tables (Monday) Maths task due on Monday.	Occasional topic research