

Homework Policy

Federation of St Mary's and St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

The policies of the Governors of the Federation of St Mary's and St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary

Schools are intended to ensure that the children rejoice in their dignity as children of God and as a unique creation of God's love. The policies are written so as to support the most effective teaching and learning that we can provide. It is our intention that every aspect of school life will support this fundamental aim.

Our Mission



Approved by: Alex Pettitt, Co-chair of governors

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Revision Record

Revision No.	Date Issued	Prepared By	Approved By	Comments
1		MS	FGB	New Policy
2		AL	FGB	

Home Learning Policy

At St Marys and St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary school we value the partnership of school and home and the impact this can have on a child's education. We see Home Learning as an important example of this partnership and as a result our Home Learning Policy was formulated in consultation with Parents and carers.

Home Learning plays a positive role in raising a child's attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst Home Learning is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out of school clubs and other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of opportunities outside school.

1. What are the aims of this policy?

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

2. What is the purpose of Home Learning?

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding particularly in English and Mathematics
- To provide opportunities for families and children to work together
- To allow families to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school
- To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.

3. What is the role of the school?

- To provide families with a clear policy regarding Home Learning.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed
- To provide support for families with information about Home Learning.

4. What is the role of the teacher?

- To plan and set a programme of Home Learning that is appropriate to the needs of the child
- To ensure all children understand the Home Learning they have been given
- To mark and give feedback about Home Learning
- To be available to talk to families and children about Home Learning
- To inform families if there is a problem regarding Home Learning.

5. What is the role of the family?

- To support the child in completing Home Learning
- To ensure the child completes Home Learning to a high standard and hands it in on time
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the Home Learning
- To attend any workshops/curriculum meetings that the school may provide.

6. What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete Home Learning each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the Home Learning in on time.
- To take on-board any feedback about Home Learning.

Home Learning in EYFS

Learning together is the emphasis for children in EYFS. The activities are Literacy/Communication based with a strong emphasis on reading together. It is an ideal time to lay the foundations for continuing work at home.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Families will be informed of the graphemes and phonemes that the children are learning in school each week. Starting in the Autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways:

(1) Adults reading to children.

Families should encourage children to point to words or pictures as they are being read. Discussion about the books is also important.

(2) Children reading to an adult.

When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books and high frequency words home to read to an adult. Again, encouraging the child to point to the words as they are being read is important. Discussing the story and the characters and asking questions about the book will help with the child's understanding of language. Within the books we send home, there is guidance on how to use the book with your children.

Letter formation

At the beginning of the child's first term in EYFS, the teachers will provide families with a sheet to support children with letter formation. This shows where to start and finish when forming each letter and what each letter should look like. Giving children the opportunity to practice forming letters and also developing drawing skills with a variety of different tools will give them valuable practice. The important thing is to watch them and correct any mistakes sensitively so they don't fall into bad habits.

Tricky Words

Children learn to read tricky words (most common words that you cannot sound out) as part of their phonics lessons. These words will be sent home attached to your child's reading record. Regularly practising reading them, looking out for the words in reading books and playing games with them will really benefit the child. For some children it will be useful to practice writing the words as well as reading them. The teachers may send home games to give families some ideas. It would be useful if these words were practiced on a regular basis in the summer holiday before year 1, as well as families continuing to read and share books with their child.

How much time should be spent on Home Learning?

For EYFS pupils, approximately 10-15 minutes per day (depending upon the child's engagement) on English based activities including reading. Maths Challenges are sent home at the start of each half term along with suggested games and ideas to support learning.

Home Learning in Key Stage One

For children in Key Stage One we encourage families to work together with their child to support them with their Home Learning. The emphasis remains on English and reading but we include ways in which children can be supported with important Mathematics skills and spelling.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Reading on a daily basis is vital when children are in Year One and Two. Children will bring their reading books home every evening and the role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words. Sounding out the word, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. Families will need to record when they have heard a child read within the child's reading record. If you need more information or support, please contact your child's teacher.

High Frequency Words

Children will have daily phonics lessons throughout Key Stage 1 which will also include ways that children can build up a secure sight vocabulary. It is vital that children build up a bank of words which they can read and spell on sight. Children will bring home some words each week for them to read, write and learn. Families can help children to learn these by practicing them regularly and often. Children will often receive the same words again in order to practice them further. They may also receive specific English tasks which may be based on practicing spelling, grammar or punctuation

Mathematics

Children will receive set work in Mathematics fortnightly that is based on the learning taking place within the classroom. Families can support their child by giving them lots of opportunities to practice these skills:

- (1) Children should be confident in their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. They should be able to say them in order and mixed up. We encourage children to also practice and learn all of the other times table facts as this will really help strengthen their maths understanding and fluency.
- (2) Children should be able to double each number up to 20.
- (3) Children should be able to halve each even number up to 20.
- (4) Children should know their number bonds for all numbers up to 20. This means they should know how to make each number, for example 5 can be made by $0+5$, $1+4$, $2+3$, $3+2$, $4+1$, $5+0$
- (5) Children should be able to tell the time when it is o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past on analogue clocks.
- (6) Children should be confident when using money. They should know the names of the coins and they should have experience of adding, taking away and finding change.

How much time should be spent on Home Learning?

For pupils in Year 1/2	10-15 minutes reading daily
	15 minute activity in English or Mathematics weekly
	5 minutes of spelling practice daily.

Home Learning in Key Stage 2

As children get older, Home Learning provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that families support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged. This will help prepare them for secondary school and lifelong independent learning. The main focus for Home Learning in Key Stage 2 continues to be English and Mathematics.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Children may read to an adult, with an adult or read to themselves in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Questions about what they have read will help them gain a better understanding of the text. Older children need a clear understanding of the story that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning of the text. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non-fiction. Children in Key Stage 2 are expected to read at home **at least** three times per week as a minimum. The more that children read, the more fluent they become and the more confident they will feel. Reading records still need to be completed with at least one record being from the parent/ carer.

English

This will be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work may be based on practicing spelling, grammar or punctuation. They may be asked to read something and answer questions. This homework is important and will help to consolidate their learning in class.

Mathematics

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to learning key facts such as multiplication or division. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Children will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 12. By the end of Year Four, children should be able to recite all facts quickly and answer mixed questions, including the division facts that are connected to the multiplication facts.

How much time should be spent on Home Learning?

For pupils in Year 3 and 4	15 minutes reading daily (3x weekly minimum)
	1 x 20 minute tasks in English or Mathematics.
	10 minutes daily practice for spelling.

For pupils in Year 5 and 6	20 minutes reading daily (3 x weekly minimum)
	2 x 20 minutes tasks in English and Mathematics

	10 minutes daily practice for spelling.
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How can families find out more information about Home Learning?

To help families and children, all Home Learning will be set by the child's class teacher on a weekly basis. The day that the homework is set and due to be handed in will be set by each teacher and will be the same each week. If you are not sure, please contact your class teacher via class dojo.

If families need advice on how to support their children with Home Learning then they can talk to the class teacher.

As part of the consultation when formulating our Home Learning Policy, it was agreed that formal written Home Learning tasks are not generally set for holiday periods. However, regular reading, revision of spellings, times tables and mental Maths work are actively encouraged in order to make sure these skills are embedded.

Why will children sometimes be given extra Home Learning?

Children who take part in specialised lessons and/or booster classes may sometimes be set extra Home Learning to reinforce the work being done. Additionally children who work in a one to one/ small group situation with staff will sometimes be given extra Home Learning if it is felt this would help them feel more confident with their learning.

In both cases, children should complete this work alongside their normal Home Learning unless the child or the families have been told otherwise. If the child is finding they have too much work then families should speak to the child's teacher or the person running the extra sessions.

As Year Two and Year Six are important years in terms of formal assessment, children will be required to undertake additional practice for the national tests.

What about children who don't complete Home Learning?

The expectation is that children will complete Home Learning. Teachers will keep records of children completing Home Learning and these records will be checked on a regular basis. If there are any problems with children not completing Home Learning then the teacher will speak to families to find out why. There may be occasions when a child will miss playtime or some of a lunchtime to catch up.

Homework club

On a Tuesday afternoon 2.30-3.30pm, the school runs a dedicated club that is run by school staff. All KS2 children can attend the club in order to complete their homework. This club is free. All parents have to do is sign up for the club at the main school office or complete the after-school club sheet within scopay.

What if a child says they have received no Home Learning?

If there is any reason why a child will not receive Home Learning then the teacher will inform families. If families have not received a letter or message via class dojo, then they should check with the child's teacher. There may be occasions if the teacher is absent that the Home Learning is not set, but we will try to avoid that happening.

How will the Home Learning be marked?

Teachers will mark children's Home Learning at the beginning of the week in a variety of ways but always according to the school's Marking and Feedback Policy. Teachers generally will not mark Home Learning that is handed in late although will they initial it to show that they are aware it was completed.

Monitoring and Review

Home Learning procedures should be monitored annually in order that they remain meaningful and manageable.