

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



Catholic
Primary School
Congleton
A Voluntary Academy

Homework Policy

Policy Schedule	Date	Signed
Approved by the Governing Body:	25/04/2023	Headteacher: Greg Merrick Chair of Governors: Paul Fagan
To be reviewed:	April 2026	

Homework Policy

*'Education is about forming the human person,
equipping him or her to live life to the full.
In short it is about imparting wisdom'*

*Pope Benedict XVI
17th September 2010*

Policy definition and aims

At Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School we believe that home learning includes many activities and experiences which can benefit children's everyday education. We encourage all parents to take an active part in any type of home learning to support the enrichment of their child's education as together we make a difference. Home learning can include any activities that children pursue outside of school; for example, swimming, Brownies, Beavers, dance, gym, tasks from school etc. One area of home learning includes formal homework; details of which are outlined below:

Rationale

If we are to recognise and value the importance of homework it is important that there is a regular programme so that everyone – teaching staff, children and parents - knows what to expect each week. The intention of this policy is to give that clear guidance.

Class homework

Homework will be given out each week by the class teacher and will need to be handed in on the following Tuesday. This homework is included within (not additional to) the recommended weekly times given in the table below. The activities will be differentiated so that they are suitable for the level at which your child is working. For example, extension homework which provides further challenge can be given to broaden children's understanding where appropriate. If children do not hand in their homework on Tuesday due to an unforeseen circumstance, they will be given the opportunity to complete their work at lunchtime (whilst still having plenty of time to eat their lunch and have a short play). However, homework should be completed outside of the school day wherever possible. Homework will be posted either on Google Classroom, on an online resource such as MyMaths, Bug Club or Spag.com or be a physical copy.

Phonics, Spellings and Times-Tables

In Years 1 and 2, children will be tested on their learning throughout the week as a means to assess their progress. In Years 3 to 6, children will be tested each Friday on spellings and regularly have timed times-table tests.

Reading

Parents should try their utmost to listen to their child read on a daily basis and to encourage their love of books. A record of the reading should be kept in the child's reading record, which needs to be brought to school each day along with their reading book. Teachers will ensure that reading books are appropriate for the ability of each child and provide sufficient challenge for all.

Holidays

As a general rule, no homework other than spelling practice will be given during the holiday periods although there may be exceptions depending on the context (for example, preparing for an upcoming topic).

Ad hoc

In addition, class teachers may decide to give additional homework to the class, or to individual children to support an area of learning. For example, a teacher may decide to give a child additional homework to consolidate a recently acquired skill in class, or to provide further challenge to a pupil who has quickly demonstrated mastery in a new area of learning.

Sacramental Programme

For children who are completing their First Holy Communion (normally in Year 3) there will be additional work for children to complete with their families as they work through their Heart Speaks to Heart books for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation. There are 12 sessions in total over the course of the programme and these books will be sent home after each session.

Homework activities, together with recommendations allocation on time spent on these, are outlined for each year group in the table below:

Year	Total Allocation per week	Task	Frequency
Reception	Up to 30 minutes	Reading Interactive Reading Activities / Phonics Themed Homework Opportunities	Daily 1 x week approx 1 x week
Year 1	Up to 1 hour	Reading Phonics Activity Sheet Maths Challenge (MyMaths/ Worksheet)	Daily 1 x week 1 x week
Year 2	Up to 1 hour	Reading Spelling Sheet Maths Challenge (MyMaths/ Worksheet)	Daily 1 x week 1 x week
Year 3	Up to 1.5 hours	Reading Spelling Times-tables Maths Challenge (MyMaths/ Worksheet)	Daily Daily Daily 1 x week
Year 4	Up to 1.5 hours	Reading Spelling Times-tables Maths Challenge/ Comprehension	Daily Daily Daily Given 1 x week
Year 5	Up to 2.5 hours	Reading Spellings Times-tables (where appropriate) English Maths Challenge (MyMaths/ Worksheet)	Daily Daily Daily Given 1 x week Given 1 x week
Year 6	Up to 3 hours	Reading Spellings Times-tables (where appropriate) English Maths Challenge (MyMaths/ Worksheet)	Daily Daily Daily Given 1 x week Given 1 x week

Parents

Homework is one way that parents can become more involved with their children and able to spend quality time with them. We aim to make parents aware of why particular tasks may be brought home from school and would encourage parents to work with their children on these tasks. This will enable parents to take an active interest in their children's own pursuits. We would ask that parents:

- provide a reasonably comfortable, suitable place in which children can do their homework
- make it clear to children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- most importantly, encourage their children and praise them when they have completed homework

Learning with Parents

In addition to the homework expectations as outlined in the table above, Reception – Year 2 families also have optional tasks to complete on Learning with Parents. This is an online portal with activities to promote discussion, interaction, and relationships within the home whilst having fun.

Conclusion

Tasks will be sent home from school throughout a child's primary years. This is not a medium to 'teach' new concepts, but rather to enhance and/or consolidate a child's learning. With this in mind we are conscious that there are many other activities in the community providing many learning opportunities. Homework need not, and should not, get in the way of other activities and children should be encouraged by parents and school alike, to make full use of them.