

St. Matthew's C of E Primary School



HOMEWORK POLICY

INTRODUCTION

We believe that education is a partnership between the school, the home and the pupil and that the links between school and home are very important. Children may be given work to take home. We believe that this is beneficial to the child's educational progress and that parents value their involvement. We seek the co-operation and support of all parents and guardians.

Homework is defined as any work or activity which children are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with their parents.

The purpose of homework is threefold:

1. to develop an effective home – school partnership to help the pupil learn
2. to reinforce learning which has taken place at school
3. to develop the skills and attitudes of independent study in readiness for lifelong learning

Our intention is that homework should never become an unreasonable burden for any child. Homework may be set by the class or group teacher and although it will usually follow a set pattern, it may vary at the teacher's discretion. Where appropriate, homework will be marked. It is important that work done at home is seen by the pupil to be valued.

AIMS OF THE POLICY

- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- To ensure the needs of the individual are taken into account.
- Ensure that parents have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupils.
- Extend and support the child's learning through reinforcement and revision.
- Provide opportunities for the parents, pupils and school to work in partnership.
- Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to enjoy learning experiences together.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- To exploit all resources for learning including those found at home.
- To extend school learning.
- To prepare children for the demands of secondary school.

The Governors and staff of St Matthew's C. of E. Primary School recognise the need for children to have the time to follow out of school interests and family activities and the attached guidelines and time allocations allow for these important things to take place. This has been particularly important when deciding on the days when homework will be set and collected.

PLANNING AND COORDINATION

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to plan and provide manageable tasks for the children and to liaise with parents where necessary.

EQUAL OPPURTUNITIES & ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Although it is seen as important that children identified as having special educational needs do as much in common with other children as possible, there will be occasions when they may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class. Such homework will be set/marked by the class teacher with the support, where appropriate, of the Inclusion Coordinator.

GIFTED & TALENTED

It is acknowledged that the able child needs to be given homework that will use their full ability and their homework may differ from that set for the majority of the class. These tasks will often be more open ended to encourage the children's question, logic and problem solving skills.

FEEDBACK

All homework is marked promptly and feedback given to pupils. This may take a variety of forms according to the work set, such as:

- Class discussion about the work
- Individual written feedback
- Individual verbal feedback
- Other feedback –e.g. 'MyMaths'
- Team points, stickers and certificates

Parents are encouraged to give teachers any useful feedback as this can be very helpful when marking and assessing homework. This may include:

- Notes in the reading diary
- Notes on the homework
- Notes attached to exercise books
- Verbal feedback.

ORGANISATION

A homework booklet will be sent home during the first week of every term alongside the topic umbrella. The booklet will contain projects that are to be completed throughout the term. Each project will be based around the class topic and will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. The booklet will also contain spellings of the week and any useful age related resources such as websites/ games/ good reads!

Maths homework will be done separately using the 'My Maths' program.

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 given.

The expectation is that children will complete their homework to the same good standard that is expected in the classroom.

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

Children who persistently struggle to complete homework or children who do not have the resources available to do their homework at home will be invited to the 'Homework club'.

The 'Homework Club' will be run after school in the 'Nurture Room'. The club will enable children to complete their homework, independently, in a homely environment.

Role of the Head Teacher	<p>The Head Teacher will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Promote this policy by raising its status and importance ✓ Ensure that homework is built into teachers planning ✓ Provide supportive guidance for teachers ✓ Keep up to date with new developments with regard to homework ✓ Monitor and evaluate this policy
Role of the teachers	<p>Teachers must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integrate homework into their planning ✓ Set interesting tasks and activities ✓ Set homework appropriate for every child ✓ Explain when, what and how the work is done so that each child clearly understands ✓ Provide opportunities for sharing homework tasks in class and provide feedback
Role of parents/ carers	<p>Parents and carers are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support the homework set ✓ Read with your child and make a note in the reading record book ✓ Support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning ✓ Encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed ✓ Be actively involved in the homework of your child ✓ Make the experience pleasurable ✓ Discuss, encourage and praise ✓ Contact the class teacher/ school if you are not sure of some aspect of the homework or your child is experiencing difficulty doing it ✓ Contribute to the school parent questionnaires so the school can monitor effectiveness
Role of the children	<p>Children are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Complete their homework and hand it in on time ✓ Listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them ✓ Contribute to pupil interviews and pupil questionnaires on homework for the school to monitor and evaluate ✓ Make sure they get feedback for their homework ✓ Complete homework using the appropriate writing materials ✓ Have a go at all homework activities

Recommended Time Allocation for Homework

Year Group	Subjects
Reception	Daily reading, occasional Maths
Year 1	Daily reading, 'My Maths', topic work
Year 2	Daily reading, 'My Maths', topic work
Year 3	Daily reading, spellings, 'My Maths', tables practice, topic work
Year 4	Daily reading, spellings, 'My Maths', tables practice, topic work
Year 5	Daily reading, spellings, 'My Maths', tables practice, topic work
Year 6	Daily reading, spellings, 'My Maths', topic work

REVIEW:

This policy was drawn up by the Senior Management Team, working in consultation with the whole staff. Its implementation is seen as the responsibility of all staff. Its use and effectiveness will be supported and monitored by the Senior Management Team, Head teacher and Governors.

The Senior Management Team, in consultation with the staff, will review this policy annually and as and when elements of monitoring, assessment and evaluation are identified or prioritised within the School Development Plan.