



St John's C.E. Primary School

Homework Policy

2016

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Homework Policy.

Our approach to setting and promoting homework is firmly rooted in our Christian values of truthfulness, friendship, love and forgiveness. As a Church of England School, we aim to promote a community of people who share a passion for learning and furthering their knowledge with Christian values at the heart of what they do. With this at the centre, St John's Primary School is committed to providing the best possible quality of education to all learners. We aim to create an approach to homework that enables children to reinforce their classroom learning at home and give parents the opportunity to help their child to make improved progress without placing onerous demands on the pupil and their parents.

The aim of this policy is to raise standards by helping, parents and carers to support children's learning at home more effectively.

Objectives

- To ensure that parents/carer know what children are learning at school.
- To provide parents/carers with advice on how to support their children at home.
- To ensure every child has homework that will consolidate their school learning.
- To ensure that every child has access to school reading books at home.

Homework expectations

In all year groups priority is given to time set aside for daily reading. In addition, homework set is linked to the work the children are doing in school although it may not always be written work. On occasions, children are invited to complete an optional extended project related to their class theme.

The following grid outlines the expectations and guidelines for homework in each year group:

Foundation Stage and Key Stage One					
Year group	Organisation	Content	Timescales	Expectations	Responses, rewards and feedback.
Reception & Year 1	Newsletters are sent out	There are curriculum related play based activities or questions given to children on a weekly basis.	Homework is sent home on Fridays on the weekly newsletter. Parents fill in a slip and return it the following week	5 minutes reading per day	Feedback will be given by the teacher or teaching assistant as appropriate in the school diaries. Reading challenge chart
Year 2	Half term homework grid	A range of activities to suit all abilities, different learning styles and areas of the curriculum with an expectation that they choose one activity to complete each week.	Through year 2 newsletters, parents will be notified of the date for show and tell when the children bring their projects into school. They can bring their work in earlier to display if they wish to.	10 minutes reading per day or a comprehension activity in the Summer term which are sent home in place of one reading session.	Show and tell session at the end of half term when children share their homework with peers as well as 1:1 with the teacher to develop speaking and listening skills. Certificates are presented to celebrate their achievements.

Key Stage Two

Homework clubs are run to support children with their homework and to provide a quiet space for children to work in. Support is also available at lunchtime for pupils without internet access.

Year 3 and 4	Weekly homework sheets are provided	<p>Spellings are either based on a sound a week or relevant topic words. These are then consolidated and checked in school. Homework is either a consolidation of work completed in class or linked to topic work.</p>	<p>Year 3 homework is sent out on Wednesday to be returned by the following Tuesday.</p> <p>Year 4 homework is sent out on Thursday to be returned by the following Wednesday.</p>	<p>15 minutes reading per day and short activities lasting no more than 15 minutes per day or it may be more relevant to complete the work in one or two sessions.</p>	<p>Feedback will be given by the teacher or teaching assistant as appropriate.</p> <p>If children consistently do not submit homework, this will form part of the discussion at Parent consultation evenings. Option to complete work at homework club will be offered.</p>
Year 5 and 6	Homework tasks are set each week to be completed by the following week	<p>Homework usually consolidates work completed in class and could include any of the following areas: numeracy, literacy, science, topic or spellings.</p>	<p>The children are normally given a week to complete their homework.</p>	<p>20 minutes reading per day and short activities lasting no more than 20 minutes per day or it may be more relevant to complete the work in one or two sessions.</p>	<p>Feedback will be given by the teacher or teaching assistant as appropriate.</p> <p>Children are expected to complete their work and return it on the prescribed day. If the homework is not completed children will complete it in their own time at school.</p>

In Year 1 through to year 6 pupils will have homework books to record any homework following the usual school presentation expectations. These books should be kept in the child's book bag. For pupils accessing My Maths, this work is all online.

Homework will not be set over the holiday period but the school will support children who would like homework over the summer. Unfortunately, staff will not be able to mark this work.

Online homework

At St John's the My Maths online programme is used in key stage two as a key part of maths homework. In light of this, we acknowledge that different families have access to different resources at home to support them and therefore, any pupils who do not have internet access at home are given the opportunity to access a computer or ipad at school to complete their homework.

Inclusion

All homework given may be differentiated to meet the needs of the pupils. Teachers ensure that children have the skills and support to complete any homework given. If children struggle with homework we encourage them to bring their work in to school and the teacher will find time to help them to understand the task. Parents are welcome to talk to teachers at the end of the day about any issues regarding homework. Homework tasks will always have clear instructions to help parents understand the purpose of the work. For example, in maths, examples of the methods that children use will be shared with parents to help them understand the correct strategy for the task.

Rewards and incentives

Pupils can receive house points for their homework and if a piece of work is judged to be of a particularly high standard by their teacher, then they can receive a Head teacher Award. If homework is not completed on a regular basis, then this can be discussed with parents, primarily through parent consultation evenings.

Parents

Parents are offered lots of opportunities to improve the way they support their children at home.

The school runs a variety of parent workshops throughout the year.

At parent's evenings, teachers advise parents on how they can support their children at home

Pupils have individual literacy and maths targets which they can share with their parents.

Pupils are given home reading books at their reading level to support their reading at home.

Notes for teachers

Always set homework which meets the needs and ability of each child.

Always allow the children sufficient time to complete the task.

Ensure that the children know exactly what is expected of them.

Provide appropriate materials and a help-sheet, if appropriate, for the task to be carried out.

Encourage discussion between children and their parents.

Homework should be marked by the Teacher or Teaching Assistant.

Date agreed by staff:

Date presented to governors:

Signed:

Date:

Policy to be reviewed:

