

St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy



'Christ be in our heads, in our hearts and in our hands'

What are the aims of this policy?

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

What is the purpose of homework?

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

What is the role of the school?

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for children who are repeatedly not completing homework at home.

What is the role of the teacher?

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

What is the role of the parent?

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a good standard.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.

What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework 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 homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

Children may receive homework which is different to other children in the class or year group. This may be because they are working at a different level to other children, or covering different aspects at different times. No child should feel inferior because of this.

Homework in Reception

Learning together is the emphasis for children in Reception. The activities are Literacy 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

Starting in the Autumn term and continuing all year, the main emphasis is on reading at home. This should be done in two ways.

- **Adults reading to children.**

Parents should encourage children to point to words as they are being read. Discussion about the books is very important.

- **Children reading to an adult.**

When they are ready to, children will start bringing simple books 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.

Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in each time they read with the child.

Sounds

Children will bring home a 'sound' tin or book. They will be given new sounds each week to learn at home. This will help them to become quicker at recognition and instant recall. They may also get extra activities related to this.

Letter Formation

Occasionally, a letter formation worksheet will be sent home for completion.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Reception	Approx 10 minutes per day (depending upon the child's level).
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Homework in Key Stage 1

For children in Key Stage 1 we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on English and reading but we include ways in which children can be supported with important Maths skills.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in year one and two. Children must read to an adult every night at home. 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. Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or comment in, each time they read with the child.

Spellings

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. At the end of the week, the KS1 teachers will send home the list of words the children have been focusing on in school. Parents can recap reading and spelling the words at home with their children.

High frequency words will be shared on the class webpages and tested at the end of each term.

Homework task

This will be given on a weekly basis and will include one of the following;

MATHS HANDWRITING WRITING

The teachers will use a range of online activities and paper based tasks. Children should complete work online or on sheets provided.

Completed homework (paper based) can be sent to the class teacher via Seesaw.

How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 1/2	At least 15 minutes reading daily every night. Approx. 20 mins on homework task per week
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Homework in Key Stage 2

As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged.

The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be English and Maths.

What type of work will my child get?

Reading

Children must read to an adult or to themselves (in the presence of an adult) every night. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. 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. If a child is still on a reading scheme we ask that parents sign and/or comment in the child's diary to say when he/she has completed their reading book.

Homework task

Homework will be set on a weekly basis across key stage 2.

The homework will be either: **MATHS and ENGLISH**

Lower key stage 2 – 1 task per week

Upper key stage 2 – 2 tasks per week

How much time should be spent on homework?

Year 3 and 4	15 – 20 mins reading daily. Approx. 30 mins on homework task per week
Year 5 and 6	20 – 30 mins reading daily Approx. 1 hour per week on homework tasks per week

How can parents find out more information about homework?

Homework will be set every **Friday** and it must be completed by the following **Friday**.

However, in Year 6, homework will be set on a **Thursday**.

The teachers will use a range of online activities and paper based tasks. Children should complete work online or in their homework books.

Completed homework (paper based) can be sent to the class teacher via Seesaw for feedback.

For those parents who wish to support their child further at home there are links on our school website.

Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?

Children who take part in intervention or booster classes may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the work being done. Additionally, children who work in a one to one situation with teaching assistants will sometimes be given extra homework.

As part of our commitment to nurturing pupils' spiritual development, teachers may occasionally set homework linked to the current Religious Education (RE) topic. This may include reflective activities, creative responses, or short tasks that encourage children to deepen their understanding beyond the classroom.

In addition, following worship, teachers may invite pupils to consider "I wonder..." questions or reflections as a form of informal homework. These prompts are designed to encourage curiosity, personal response, and thoughtful discussion with family members. Children may also be given simple "go forth" missions or take-away ideas after worship. These are intended to help pupils apply the values explored in worship in their daily lives, such as showing kindness, helping others, or demonstrating forgiveness.

These types of homework are inclusive, open-ended, and focused on reflection rather than written outcomes. They support the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural understanding in a meaningful and personal way.

As the Year 6 SATs approach children may be asked to complete past SAT papers at home. In all cases, children should complete this work alongside their normal homework unless the child or the parents have been told otherwise.

If the child is finding they have too much work then parents should speak to the child's teacher or the person running the extra sessions.

What about children who don't complete homework?

The expectation is that children will complete homework every week. Teachers will keep records of children completing homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis.

If there are further problems with children not completing homework, the teacher will speak to parents to find out why.

Feedback and marking

Children will be provided with feedback via the online platforms used in school (e.g. Seesaw, Purple Mash, etc).

Completed homework (paper based) can be sent to the class teacher via Seesaw for feedback.

If a child has difficulty completing the homework then a message should be sent to the class teacher via Seesaw.