

Homework Policy

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School



Approved by:

Date: November 2022

Last reviewed on: November 2022

Next review due by: November 2023

At St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, we consider homework to be an essential and valuable element of learning.

To be effective it needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents and schools but both teachers and parents need to be completely clear about what is expected and how it is organised and managed.

We want to ensure that homework arrangements are manageable for everyone and educationally beneficial so it was important that we consulted parents and teachers alike.

We have written this policy following careful consideration of its purpose, which we consider to be the following:

Purpose of policy

- ◆ An opportunity to enhance the effective partnership that already exists between home and school in pursuing the aims of the school. (See Home School Agreement)
- ◆ To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and mathematics.
- ◆ To extend school learning.
- ◆ To exploit different resources for learning, which may be available at home.
- ◆ To encourage confidence and self-discipline in independent learning: preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

Implementation of Policy

Our policy reflects the altering needs of children, as they get older. For children at the Foundation stage and in Key stage 1 the type of activities promotes the involvement of parents /carers and may not be described as 'homework'.

Short activities of different kinds - simple games, learning spellings, reading and number facts provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning and practise key skills in a supportive environment.

As the children get older homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning. The school encourages parents in supporting their children to become used to the routine of regular pieces of homework and to encourage them to study on their own especially by the time they reach Year 6.

By the time they reach Year 6 the homework programme covers a wide range of tasks and curriculum content, with a regular weekly schedule. This approach will benefit their learning and ease their transition to Year 7/secondary school.

At St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School **reading** is vital. At the Foundation stage and Key stage 1 homework largely consists of regular reading with parents/carers, looking at books together. Reading practice and listening to others read then continues to be essential right through school into KS2.

All children are expected to take their reading book home every day and complete some reading each night either on their own or with an adult. A Reading Diary is provided to keep a record of reading at home and parents are encouraged to sign the diary, making a comment if they so wish, to show that reading homework has been completed.

Other English related homework includes learning **spellings** and practising grammar and punctuation.

In EYFS children are asked to complete an activity to support their learning of phonics. Children may also be given flashcards with sounds and words to practise. In Key Stages 1 and 2, a weekly spelling list linked to their spelling scheme or National Curriculum statutory word lists is given for children to learn at home. The children are then given a spelling test in school.

In **mathematics**, the school will set number bonds and tasks for the younger children with multiplication facts and more formal exercises for the older children.

In addition, in KS2 only, the children complete online homework via Atom Learning Platform which covers English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning. The tasks set are adaptive to each child's ability: as they get the answer right, the questions get trickier, and as they make mistakes, the questions get less challenging. This means that all children can learn at their own ability level but continue to be challenged and extended.

The site also provides feedback on how performance can be improved - this is invaluable and means skills can be individually targeted to ensure progress for all children. Teachers can see exactly which areas need to be developed and focused on, and which areas need to be extended.

Other Homework

Occasionally, children are asked to do additional pieces of work to support current curriculum themes, e.g. topic research, diaries, surveys and work linked to individual learning programmes.

Guidance and support for parents/carers is provided at the beginning of the autumn term in the Welcome Newsletter and 'Meet the Teacher' evenings.

Careful consideration is given to meeting individual children's needs including those children with special educational needs (see below).

Special Educational Needs

The school considers that it is important to set the appropriate amount of homework. It is a task, which needs close co-ordination between class teachers and parents.

Tasks should:

- ◆ Have a clear focus and time guideline.
- ◆ Give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed.
- ◆ Help develop social as well as other skills.
- ◆ Be varied - not just written assignments.
- ◆ Be manageable for teachers.

Time allocation

We believe that a sensible programme of homework activities should be given. It is more important that homework helps your child to learn than whether it takes a certain amount of time. St. Bernadette's plan homework carefully alongside the work children do at school, and to make sure that all activities are appropriate for individual children.

Feedback for pupils, parents/carers and teachers

The school will ensure that the children will receive feedback.

This maybe through class work with oral or written comments (speaking and listening activity in the weekly 'Dojo Show') or through tests (spellings, tables). St. Bernadette's maintain reading record diaries where comments from parents are valued.

The aim of the school is to keep the workload of the teacher manageable.

Mentioning in 'celebration' assemblies or through the school's positive award system could make recognition of children's efforts.

Pupils

Pupils will record and ensure their understanding of the homework tasks.

Demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time doing the tasks set and handing the work back in on time.

Parents

Parents/carers will encourage and monitor homework (See home-school agreement) and inform school if an issue arises.

Monitoring, Evaluation and review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. It regularly consults parents to adapt the policy in light of findings.