

Homework Policy



St. Mary's RC Primary School

Mission Statement

We live learn and grow together with Jesus through:

- Showing love to all
- Encouraging friendship to include everybody
- Acting with honesty through prayer
- Being thankful for all God's gifts
- Remaining respectful through our actions
- Forgiving someone when they are sorry
- Displaying patience by being calm and caring
- Demonstrating compassion to everyone in God's family
- Leading in service by supporting our school community

Written by: Laura Wolstenholme

Date written: September 2026

Approved by governors on: October 2026

Policy will be reviewed: Annually

It is our school policy that all pupils should receive homework as it is useful in reinforcing and practising knowledge and skills taught in class. Homework develops an effective partnership between home and school which promotes positive attitudes to learning. It ensures that children make the best possible progress and effectively develop skills as independent learners. As children grow older, it develops their self-discipline and responsibility to study on their own and preparing them for future learning.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- ensure the needs of the individual children are taken into account
- ensure that pupils and parents/carers know what to expect
- extend and support the learning experience through reinforcement and revision
- provide opportunities for parents and children to enjoy learning together

Expectations

The exact time spent on homework will vary as individual age and ability must be taken into account. In general, the amount of time to be spent on homework will increase when a pupil is in Year 6 to aid their transition to secondary school. Whilst we value homework as a vital part of the learning process, we recognise that many young people have interests and hobbies outside of school; we would never require so much to be completed that it impinges on other very important aspects of a child's life.

Children are expected to take responsibility for their homework by:

- listening carefully to the instructions given on homework
- completing and presenting homework to the best of their ability
- bringing their homework to and from school on the correct days

Parents/ carers have a key role in supporting children's homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older, but parents/carers can support our policy by:

- providing a suitable place for homework activities away from any distractions
- making it clear that they value homework and ensuring books from school are returned
- completing the reading record or checking a homework task is completed as appropriate
- not using homework as a threat or punishment
- contacting the teacher if there are any concerns about homework
- encouraging children to be as independent as possible

The teachers will:

- set homework which is appropriate to the age and ability of each child
- give a clear explanation of work to be completed at home
- give suitable guidance to parents/carers where necessary, including when homework needs to be brought back to school
- give recognition and praise to children for their efforts
- feedback to children as appropriate

Types of Homework

Time spent listening, talking, reading, explaining and encouraging your child is time well spent. Listed below are the types of activities your child might reasonably be expected to complete as homework as they move through the different phases of primary school. It is particularly important that parents spend time speaking and listening to their children. As children get older there should be opportunities for children to develop the skills of independent learning.

Reception	✓ Talking Talk is crucial in developing language and communication skills. Welcomm packs will be sent home ✓ Reading School reading books will be sent home in September. There will be a phonic reading book and a reading for pleasure book. These will be changed once a week and parents/carers are asked write a brief note on how they read, in the reading records provided. There may be phonics sounds shared throughout the year with accompanying games to play at home ✓ Sharing Sharing bedtime stories, news about school, playing games or singing counting rhymes are so important in developing understanding, reasoning, logic and listening skills that are vital to early development
Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5	✓ Reading Reading books (some will be free choice year group depending) will be sent home weekly and changed as agreed with the class teacher. Parents/carers will be asked to sign and date reading records. ✓ Spelling Usually, 10 spellings will be sent home on a Friday with the test the following Friday ✓ Maths Weekly recall of number facts will be given. No formal test will be given however the extra practice will be beneficial for lessons
Year 6 Homework tasks given in Yr 6 will noticeably increase and require more time to complete. This is specifically designed in	✓ Reading Free choice reading books will be sent home. Parents/carers will be asked to sign and date reading records. Books can be changed any day ✓ Spelling

order to increase the children's stamina for homework, becoming 'high school ready'	Usually, 10 spellings will be sent home on a Friday with the test the following Friday ✓ Other curriculum homework Will be related to class work. Given out on a Wednesday to be returned the following Monday
---	--

Praise and Sanctions

Children will be praised and will receive team points for signed reading records and completed spellings. If a teacher feels a child is not completing homework and it is affecting their learning teachers will be in contact to discuss.

The guidelines above reflect the 'normal' amount of homework to be brought home and completed throughout the school year, by each class. These will be followed closely in order to allow pupils, parents/carers and teachers to build up a routine. When the school has any special events, weeks or celebratory times of the year, this may differ.