



St James CofE Primary School

Homework Policy

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Introduction

At St James CE Primary School, we believe that homework can add much to a pupil's development and attainment and is therefore an important part of a child's education.

Aims of the policy

Through implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give pupils the opportunity to extend their learning in areas of personal interest
- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education
- To make set homework relevant and meaningful for the child linked to work done at school
- Make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers
- Provide opportunities for parents and children to work together, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school

Why do we value homework?

Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. By valuing home-school learning, pupils are afforded the chance to practice skills, consolidate understanding of work covered in the classroom and to widen their own interests. Moreover, developing good study habits provides an opportunity for pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

Principles

- The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As the children progress through the school so the amount of homework increases.
- Teachers' ensure that the tasks purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear tasks as well as clear examples of work to guide both children and adults.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that children maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.
- Homework should be linked to previous learning and key skills and must be meaningful and relevant
- Parents will be informed about our aims in setting homework and about the importance this type of work plays in children's education

- Children have the opportunity to complete more tasks if they wish to do so. Some tasks will have an optional challenge that the children can complete to extend their learning further.

Homework Expectations

A breakdown of how homework is structured in each year is provided below. This has been designed to encourage a gradual progression of skills and expectation so that by the time children reach Year 6 they have established a clear routine in preparation for secondary school.

Foundation Stage

- Reading and sharing books preferably daily but at least 3 times a week; adults to keep a signed record in the reading diary
- Children may be given additional 'top-up' practice of phonic sounds and/or common exception words

Key Stage 1

- Reading/sharing books with parents/carers daily and recording in the reading diary (at least 3 times)
- Children will be given a list of spellings to learn which will follow the spelling patterns taught in their phased groups or linked to curriculum (weekly)
- As and when required, homework linked to basic skills and retrieval eg. number bonds, rapid recall facts
- In Year 2, children will begin to learn multiplication facts 2, 5, 10 (and starting on 3 when ready) using Times Table Rock Stars

Lower Key Stage 2

- Reading daily (recorded in diaries at least 3 times)
- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested on the following week
- Learning times tables using Times Tables Rockstars (continuing with 2, 5 and 10 and learning of multiplication facts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 when ready)
- Weekly homework linked to basic skills and retrieval eg. number bonds, rapid recall facts, vocabulary
- Children may be given a specific activity linked to an area of the curriculum

Upper Key stage 2

- Reading daily (recorded in diaries at least 3 times)
- Weekly homework linked to basic skills and retrieval eg. multiplication facts ongoing - all tables to be revised, in any order, mixed and to include division number bonds, rapid recall facts, vocabulary

- A spelling list will be provided each week on a specific day and tested the following week
- Children may be given a specific activity linked to an area of the curriculum

Expectations

It is the expectation that *all* children will at least attempt to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability.

Dates for handing homework in are always made explicit by the class teacher.

Pupils are expected to complete homework to the same high standards insisted on in class e.g. neat handwriting, accurate use of full stops and capital letters etc.

How you can help your child with their homework

Below is a list of ways that you as a parent can show your child that you value their homework and the time and effort spent completing it.

The school will also provide clear and regular reminders of their expectation when it comes to homework. As a school we hope that you will find this guidance helpful in supporting your child fully with their homework.

You can show you value your child's homework by:

- providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support
- making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning
- encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set
- ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time
- checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- visits to libraries, museums etc.
- cooking with them
- taking your child swimming
- playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games
- watching informative TV programmes together
- providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.
- gardening and growing plants
- using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use)

- talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning

Remember: Homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building...

Enthusiasing your child about undertaking homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance. Make it fun!