

St Philip's Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

October 2022



Mission Statement

St Philip's is a welcoming community where everyone belongs. With Christ at the centre, we pray together and show our love for God by living the Gospels.

Showing care and compassion for each other, we are kind and sharing; treating each other fairly and with respect. We value everyone as unique children of God.

We create a caring, stimulating environment where everyone feels safe and secure.

We foster a love of learning, embracing challenge and never giving up. With support and encouragement, we learn from our mistakes and always strive to do our utmost.

We find the best in all, nurturing our individual strengths and developing the confidence to allow everyone to reach their potential, preparing ourselves for the journey ahead.

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers, teaching assistants and parents to support the children's learning.

Rationale for Homework

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils.

Aims / Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- To reinforce learning that has taken place in class;
- To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- To promote co-operation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To consolidate and reinforce the learning in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- To prepare for future planned class work;
- To help children develop good work habits for the future;

What homework is set?

Homework is set that the teacher believes your child can achieve with increasing independence. It is not helpful for another person to do the homework for the child or to help them too much. Please leave the homework if you believe it to be unachievable and let the teacher know the difficulties your child had.

Reception

- Daily reading
- Learning keywords
- Phonics book activities 4 times a week
- Suggested home learning activities

Year 1

- Daily reading
- Spellings once a week
- Simple Maths activity once a week
- Simple English activity once a week
- Suggested optional activities that link with the current topic

Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

- Daily reading
- Daily times tables practice
- Spellings once a week
- Maths homework once a week
- One other piece of homework from any subject area– this could include work which children can complete over a longer period of time.
- **Year 6** – Revision for SATs

When is homework handed out and expected to be completed?

Each Key Stage has its own arrangements that are set out in the curriculum letter at the start of each term. Children in Years 2-6 will have a Homework book to allow them to record their work in. To help children develop greater responsibility for their own learning, there are clear expectations that homework is handed in punctually. There is an expectation from the school that all children will complete all homework tasks and support from parents/carers is greatly appreciated in ensuring that homework is successfully completed and that it is also a positive and rewarding experience.

Marking of homework

All homework that is completed in the time set should be marked or responded to in some way e.g. discussed/displayed. This includes self and peer marking.

How are individual needs met?

Most homework tasks should be appropriate for the majority of the children in a particular class. If a child has particular needs the class teacher can give parents advice as to the type of work he or she can do at home. A child may have an Individual Support Plan (ISP), which outlines work that can be carried out at home to support their learning. This is discussed fully with the parents at their meetings with teachers throughout the year.

What environment best suits learning?

The best environment in which to learn is one that is **supportive**, and this is true of both the classroom and the home. All children respond differently to different situations. Some children prefer silence, whilst others can work in a noisier environment. Most children do not respond well if their teachers or parents show too much anxiety over their progress, or make comparisons with other children. Most children do not respond well if they are overburdening an adult by requiring help, or if they are harshly criticised for making mistakes.

Most children do respond well to **praise** and **encouragement**. Some children find it easier to work with a particular helper, which may be an older brother or sister, rather than a parent. If there are significant problems, the class teacher needs to know so that ways to alleviate them can be found.

When helping a child at home, whether with homework sent by the teacher or which parents have provided, it is most important to make this as stress free, constructive and enjoyable an experience as possible.

What other activities can be done at home to help children with their learning?

- Talking and listening to your child as much as possible
- Reading - anything and everything! Signs, street names, newspapers, comics, books. Join the local library or a book club
- Playing games ~ word games (e.g. Scrabble crosswords), board games, number games, jigsaws
- Painting, drawing, making models from junk or kits, sewing, cutting and sticking
- Educational computer games, software or visiting educational websites
- Cooking
- Writing stories, making up and acting out plays, writing thank you letters or invitations
- Visits to the zoo, museums etc
- Opportunities to play

An effective partnership between home and school will support everyone involved in the education of our pupils. To make it succeed, we must have an understanding and commitment to this policy, so that all children can have a happy and successful time at St Philip's Catholic Primary School.