**St. Bernadette’s RC Primary School**

**Homework Policy January 2017**

**Aim:**

Our aim is to ensure a whole school approach to homework. As the primary educators of their children, parents and carers are encouraged to support and reinforce the expectations of school so that in partnership we are able to:

* Help all children to achieve their potential;
* Involve parents/carers in their children’s learning;
* Reinforce and consolidate basic skills and knowledge in Lliteracy and Numeracy through Core Homework;
* Extend and reinforce work covered in the classroom through Extension Homework;
* Encourage children to take responsibility for their learning and become more independent.

**Core and Extension Homework:**

Each week, children will be set Core and Extension Homework. Core Homework is essential and should be undertaken by every child. Core Homework Spelling and Numeracy tasks will not normally require written work e.g. writing out words 3 times but will be assessed in weekly spelling and Numeracy assessments.

We would urge parents to ensure that children also undertake Extension Homework tasks as these are activities that teachers consider to be very valuable in consolidating and extending classroom learning. However, we recognise that, for a variety of reasons, not all families are able to support this level of home learning.

All children will be expected to complete Core Homework tasks as these tasks will cover the building blocks of learning that we believe a child must have in order to progress e.g.

* phonics;
* reading;
* spelling ;
* number bonds or times tables.

Extension Homework tasks will be provided to give parents and carers the opportunity to work with their children to deepen and extend classroom learning. Activities might include:

* Comprehension exercises;
* Research for topics;
* Preparing presentations for the class;
* Numeracy consolidation on topics such as fractions.

General Points:

* Homework will be set on a Monday and should be handed in on a Friday;
* Homework should take no longer than 10 minutes in P1, 15 minutes for P2-P3 and 20 minutes for P4 – P7.
* Weekly spelling and numeracy test results will be shared with parents.

**Shared Responsibilities**

**Teachers are responsible for:**

•Establishing homework procedures;

•Ensuring children have a Homelink booklet;

•Ensuring that children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved;

•Preparing and setting appropriate homework tasks ;

•Giving feedback which will identify strengths and next steps.

**Pupils are responsible for:**

•Completing homework to the best of their ability;

* Returning it on time;

•Reading at home;

• Taking responsibility for their own learning;

•Taking pride in presentation and content.

**Parents are responsible for:**

•Providing suitable, quiet surroundings where pupils can do their homework;

•Encouraging their children to take pride in their work;

•Helping children to practise spelling words, times tables etc;

•Encouraging children to complete given tasks;

* Informing teachers of any difficulties that their children are experiencing in tackling homework tasks;

•Reading with children.