



Learning at Home

St Clare's Homework Policy

Article 29 Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

The St Clare's 'Learning at Home' policy has been created through consultation with parents, pupils, research, and dialogue with education professionals.

Research shows "Homework in primary school does not appear to lead to large increases in learning" (Education Scotland website, National Improvement Hub). However, children in Scotland only spend around 15% of their waking hours in school. The remaining 85% is spent at home or in the community and we recognise this presents a significant opportunity for learning. A stimulating learning environment out with school can be fundamental to a child's attainment and achievement.

At St Clare's we take a 'family learning approach' to learning at home, which allows children and families to learn together. At our annual Meet the Teacher event, class teachers share their expectations and equip families with the information needed to ensure learning at home is an enriching experience for all involved.

All home learning activities are based on consolidating and revising learning that happens in school. They can create a natural dialogue between learners and families to further discuss concepts and topics covered in school. As well as this, children can develop key organisational skills required in high school and later in their working lives.

Home learning activities are given regularly across the school and commence after a period of settling in. During the months of December and June, no formal homework will be given other than reading books. Instead, pupils will be directed to a range of activity ideas, such as Outdoor Learning/Family based activities.

There are several types of learning at home activities set by class teachers and the amount and type will vary according to the needs of the individual child. Activities will usually be given out on a Monday and returned daily, or on a Friday, providing flexibility for each family. Different activities may involve the following:

- Phonics/Tricky words
- Spelling; to extend vocabulary
- Reading (using Reciprocal Reading strategies/reading aloud)
- Numeracy/Zeta Maths
- ABCS of Talk
- Other curricular areas to coincide with calendar events/topic work
- ICT based activities

Breaks in homework may occur, to accommodate any other commitments of the class, such as during First Holy Communion, school shows, etc.

The guidance below illustrates the duration we would expect your child to spend on their homework.

- In Primary 1, homework is increased gradually over the course of Term 1 and 2, taking around 10 minutes each night
- Primary 2 and 3 around 15 minutes
- Primary 4 and 5 around 20 minutes
- Primary 6 and 7, around 30 minutes

Please feel free to stop your child if they are working longer than the recommended time or if they are particularly stressed or tired. Please be mindful that your child is learning all day in school and using their brain to full capacity so it is important that they are refreshed prior to beginning their homework. Often a snack and drink will help them focus. Creating a learning space that is calm, peaceful and away from distractions may also support their concentration. Showing an interest in your child's learning at home activities, and talking about them with your child, can really help them to learn. Similarly, encouraging your child to be independent with their homework will build resilience and develop their sense of responsibility for their own learning, now and in the years ahead. If you have any concerns about your child's learning at home it is important to discuss this with the class teacher at the earliest opportunity.

Please note if you choose to take your child on holiday during the school year the class teacher will be unable to provide any additional homework during that time.