



Our Lady & St Francis Primary School & Nursery Class  
Homework  
Policy & Practice  
October 2016

## **Rationale**

Our aim in Our Lady & St Francis is to promote a meaningful partnership between home and school. We strive to encourage all children to continue to develop their learning both in school and out of school.

## **Principles of Homework**

### **All homework tasks should:**

- a) Be explained clearly: pupils should know what is required and when it is to be completed.
- b) Reinforce and consolidate class work in a variety of forms
- c) Encourage pupils to take responsibility and establish good study habits in planning and organising learning
- d) Be related to each child's/group's individual needs and abilities
- e) Should make home learning enjoyable for children
- f) Provide an opportunity for parents/carers to know what is being taught in school and to encourage and enable them to play a positive role in their children's learning
- g) Encourage pupils to make use of a range of media and ICT resources - children who have no home access can make use of resources within school on Wednesdays at lunchtime
- h) Develop a sense of the outdoor world as a place of learning at appropriate times of the year.

## **Practice**

Homework will be issued on a Monday and be returned to school by Friday of the same week. We encourage our parents to consider a quiet working space for children to enable the completion of quality homework. At home a specific time and a particular place should be set aside taking account of weekly commitments. The following times are allocated for homework across a normal week and we would expect pupils to allocate their time following discussion with parents.

P1 - P3 ..... 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes  
P4 - P5 ..... 1 hour 10 to 1 hour 20 minutes  
P6 - P7 ..... 2 hours

In consultation with our pupils and parents, it has been agreed that during the summer term we will issue less formal written homework, to encourage our children to play and use the outdoor environment for learning.

N.B. If a child cannot manage to complete a task it should be returned to school and the matter discussed between parent/carer and teacher. Homework diaries are in operation throughout the school and these enable parents to communicate appropriately with class teachers. Parents/Carers should sign the diary or the specific homework task as required.

## Monitoring of homework

### Teacher

This will be done by class teachers, who will give a variety of oral and written feedback to pupils. Peer and self assessment will also be encouraged and a weekly self reflection on targets will take account of homework that week. At times, especially during research presentations, children will feed back to peers and this will be done on a group rotational basis. The class teacher will make comments orally, in writing or both.

Homework will also be monitored by the Senior Management Team and feedback given to staff and pupils as appropriate.

In the first instance, parents will be contacted by the class teacher if homework has not been completed on three occasions. If this is not addressed the matter will be referred to the Senior Management Team who will then contact parents directly.

### Pupil

Pupils will accept responsibility for organising their homework, completing it to the best of their ability, ensuring deadlines are met and homework is returned to school in good order. Pupils will inform the teacher if they are having difficulty with any aspect of homework.

### Home

We ask the following of our parents:

Be aware of when homework has been set.

Encourage children to complete tasks to the best of their ability.

Monitor (but not correct) homework tasks.

Participate in learning tasks when requested e.g. discussion, listen to a story being read, observe phonic work, listen to a child practise times tables.

## **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

### ***HOW PARENTS CAN HELP WITH HOMEWORK***

Dear Parent,

Our Lady & St Francis recognises the importance of your assistance in your child's learning. Homework provides an opportunity for the school and home to work together.

This information is intended to give you some guidance on how to help.

**SHOW AN INTEREST:** Ask what homework has to be done over the next few days. Discuss your child's homework tasks and how best they will organise their time for that week.

**SIGN THE DIARY:** Sign that you have seen your child's homework and, if you wish, make a comment about the activity to your child's teacher

N.B. When checking your child's homework, if you notice any mistakes please draw your child's attention to the mistake **but don't change it for your child**. Please remember that homework is the child's responsibility.

The comments box should also be used to inform the teacher if your child is having difficulty in completing or understanding any specific task(s).



Child's name: .....

Child's Teacher: .....

Date:

## **HOMEWORK**

### Stage One

Dear

It has been brought to my attention that your child has failed to complete and/ or return his/her class homework on three occasions.

As homework is based on a partnership between home and school, we would appreciate your full support and co-operation on this matter.

Please contact the school if you feel you need to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Class Teacher

Please tear off and return to school

.....

I have received the letter about my child's homework and will give it my attention.

I do / do not wish to discuss this further at this point.

Signed: .....Parent/Carer

Child's name: ..... Class: .....



Child's name: .....

Child's Teacher: .....

Date:

## **HOMEWORK**

### Stage Two

Dear

It has been brought to my attention that your child has failed to complete and/ or bring in his/her class homework on three occasions.

Your child's class teacher has already contacted you through a formal letter, however homework continues to be an issue for .....

As homework is based on a partnership between home and school, we would appreciate your full support and co-operation on this matter.

Please contact the school to make an appointment with myself or a member of the Senior Management Team to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher

Please tear off and return to school

.....

I have received the letter about my child's homework and will give it my attention.

I do / do not wish to discuss this further at this point.

Signed: .....Parent/Carer

Child's name: ..... Class: .....

