



St Mary's Primary School

Homework Policy

Teaching staff at St Mary's have been researching the benefits of homework in raising attainment and have found, generally research fails to find any academic benefit to homework for students in primary school.

Given that family life is very different nowadays with many parents working shifts and families having lots of other valuable after school commitments. Teachers hope to reduce the four day commitment to homework, while continuing to encourage reading and necessary revision. This should allow families more scope to determine how their children will spend their evenings.

In a parental consultation, the majority of parents, while agreeing that homework was beneficial, felt that an optional approach was best. Almost all parents said that they have access to the internet.

Our new homework policy will hopefully address the wishes of all. Homework will be available for those who wish their children to do it. Grids and spelling lists will be available on our school web site. Reading homework will still be provided and at times, unfinished work may be sent home. A jotter will be provided to enable home learning but it will be kept at home. Staff conduct a number of ongoing assessments so do not need to mark homework to assess progress. Focus for Learning documents are available on the school web site so that parents will know what is being taught to the children.

Reading books should always be returned to school bags after reading as they are required daily. We spend a lot of money replacing lost books each year. If a child repeatedly fails to return books then they will not be sent home.

In addition pupils will be encouraged to use SUMDOG at home. Some pupils will have log ins for IDL literacy and numeracy and younger pupils will be encouraged to use certain apps to extend and enrich learning e.g. Teach Your Monster to Read. A list of appropriate websites and apps will also be available on our school web site.

This approach will allow those who wish to access a variety of home learning activities, and a time which suits their family life. It will also cut down on costs associated with photocopying sheets.

In Summary

- Each class will have a Focus for Learning document on school web site.
- A word list and Phoneme (sound) list will be available for most stages.
- A monthly grid will be available for classes.
- Reading homework will be sent home and books MUST be in school bags daily.

Policy Date 1/11/18

Review date November 2019