



St. Mary's Primary School and Nursery Class

Home Learning Policy

November 2016

Aims of Policy

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and structure of homework at St. Mary's.
- To identify our shared views of good practice.
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.
- To share the structure of Home Learning for each year group.

Purpose

The purpose of homework in St. Mary's is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. It enables children to practise and consolidate skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. Finally, it aims to enable children to eventually take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.

Good Practice

In St. Mary's, we believe that the following principles underpin good practice.

- That staff and parents are involved in reviewing and developing the policy i.e. it is a process which takes place over time and results in the completion of a written guidance document.
- A variety of approaches are used to ensure that parents and children are aware of home learning expectations and organisation. These can include diaries, online systems etc.
- Home learning is set in a structured way to help children get into the habit of learning and studying at home.
- There is regular feedback and praise for completed work.
- In planning home learning, teachers set clear learning intentions and tasks are appropriate.
- The policy is reviewed annually.
- Home Learning tasks will only cover learning which has already been introduced and taught in some depth in school. No child should encounter a home learning task covering new concepts or concepts which are too challenging.

Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibilities of teachers:

- To set appropriate home learning tasks – interesting and at the right level
- To ensure tasks are fully understood
- To check on home learning done and give feedback
- To recognise and reward effort and work well done

Responsibilities of pupils:

- To make the time to complete work carefully and well
- To discuss difficulties with the teacher as soon as they arise
- To ensure parents know the task (s) to be completed and ask for support if necessary
- To hand in completed work on or before the due date

Responsibilities of parents:

- To know what the school expects of children and parents
- To encourage children to do their best at all times
- To talk to the child about what he/she is learning and to support but not do the work for them!
- To listen to any worries and to get in touch with the school if necessary
- To try to arrange supporting activities such as going to the library or visiting museums/galleries

Structure

What your child should be doing.

Primary 1

- Shared Reading (3 nights per week)
- Spelling activities (3 nights per week)
- Phoneme activities (3 nights per week)
- Number work related to current learning in class (2 nights per week)

Primary 2

- Shared Reading (3 nights per week)
- Spelling activities (3 nights per week)
- Phoneme activities (3 nights per week)
- Number work related to current learning in class (2 nights per week)

Primary 3

- Shared Reading (3 nights per week)
- Spelling activities (3 nights per week)
- Phoneme activities (2/3 nights per week)
- Number work related to current learning in class (2 nights per week)

Primary 4

Homework will be set every night from Monday- Thursday covering Spelling, Phonemes, Reading and Numeracy. Numeracy work will be a reflection of current learning in the class.

Primary 5

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Primary 6

Homework tasks will be set on either a daily or weekly basis depending on current class learning. Homework tasks will be less routine as compared to other year groups and can be more bespoke and set to meet particular needs identified by the class teacher. Use can be made of online forums e.g. GLOW, Skoolbo and Study Ladder.

Primary 7

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[Frequently Asked Questions Around Home Learning](#)

What if I am unable to do the home learning task that evening or miss an evening?

Let the class teacher know via the diary or by sending in a note. The task can always be completed the following night.

I always try and do the week's home learning tasks all on one night. Is this okay?

Yes, if your child has the full list of tasks and relevant resources. However, whenever possible and whenever other activities allow, try to spend some time each night on home learning activities.

What if my child is finding the home learning task too difficult? How should I guide?

If your child cannot complete a home learning task please inform your child's teacher via the diary or a note. Alternatively, feel free to email the head teacher or depute head teacher. Your child should only receive home learning tasks which cover learning already undertaken.

[What do I do if I have a query?](#)

If your child has a problem completing the home learning task (s) or you have any questions, please contact the Head Teacher or Depute Head Teacher or write a note in the Home School Learning Diary. We will do all that we can to resolve the problem. Your support in the process is vital for children's success in developing self-study skills as they move on up through the school.