

ST. PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

The setting of homework is an integral part of the teaching and learning process.

1. THE PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK ARE

- promote self reliance, self discipline, self confidence and encourage pupils to participate with responsibility in their own learning
- strengthen the liaison between home and school and involve parents (and at times the wider community) in pupils' work
- encourage pupils to make use of libraries and other resources
- develop the habit of independent study which will include individual and co-operative study
- reinforce class work and consolidate the learning process by providing further practice in important skills or by assisting in the acquisition of essential knowledge
- extend class work either by doing preparatory work or follow-up work, which cannot be undertaken in class time
- widen the learning experience by giving pupils the opportunity to use materials and sources of information not available in the classroom
- help teachers monitor the effectiveness of learning and teaching
- allow pupils who have fallen behind in classwork to make up lost ground.

2. CATEGORIES AND VARIETIES OF HOMEWORK ISSUED

Some types of homework are clearly more suited for certain purposes and more justifiable than others. It is important that the strengths and weaknesses of different types of homework are fully recognised and reflected in practice.

Account should be taken of all pupils' needs to ensure appropriate homework is given. These needs include those arising from Race, Gender, Disability, Additional Support Needs and English as an Additional Language.

Homework can be divided into 5 categories which may on occasion overlap.

1. Preparation for class work - tasks planned in advance are tied into class work e.g. information gathering prior to enable the information to be set out in graphical form in class.
2. Spontaneous tasks arising from an idea that the teacher or pupils have had during work in a lesson.
3. Self contained tasks on a discrete piece of work running parallel to class work.
4. Planned tasks built into a programme of work as an integral aspect of the curriculum feeding into class work or reinforcing work done in the classroom e.g. investigations for Standard Grade.
5. Finishing off work started in class.

A variety of homework will be issued. The following list covers examples.

- learning words
- reading
- spelling
- number work
- research at home or in libraries using a variety of sources
- reviewing a novel
- reading for information and pleasure
- redrafting and summarising
- raising awareness of technology by designing and making models
- collecting items of interest for use in school
- developing information handling skills
- developing hobbies and sharing information with others
- developing investigative skills
- tackling and solving problems
- developing diaries
- independent work for topics/investigations.

3. FREQUENCY AND NOTING OF HOMEWORK

All children should do some home reading every night.

In addition to this, formal written homework will also be given at least three times a week. Homework should take around 20-30 minutes each night.

Children will be encouraged to use a homework bag/pocket for keeping their homework items together. These are available from the school.

4. MARKING OF HOMEWORK

A variety of methods of marking homework will be used.

Teachers will listen to and discuss reading and research homework. Homework examples will be gone over in class and corrected on the blackboard. Children will also engage in exchange marking with other pupils.

Homework set will always be within the ability range of the pupil, therefore all children in a class will not always have the same homework set.

Every child has a reading diary in which reading homework is recorded and a parental signature is required to acknowledge that the parent is aware of the set homework. The teacher may request that other homework is also signed.

If the teacher is concerned about your child's homework a note may be sent by the head teacher requesting you to come and discuss it with the teacher.