



English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

Our English Martyrs' School community aims to follow the example of Christ in welcoming, recognising, fostering and developing each individual as a unique and special gift of GOD with value and dignity

Date reviewed: September 2019

Review Date: September 2021

1. Introduction

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework gives pupils the opportunity to practise at home the tasks done in class, and helps them work towards improving important skills. It also encourages children to become confident and independent in their thinking and learning.

Homework activities are also an important part of the home/school partnership and all children are expected to take part in a variety of homework tasks to enhance and support their work in class.

2. Purpose

By setting regular homework for pupils, we aim to:

- Develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and carers in pursuing
- The aims of the school and the development of their child;
- Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school;
- Extend and support learning, consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding of the different subjects.

3. Content of homework

For children in Key Stage 1, the emphasis of homework is on developing a partnership with parents and carers and involving them actively in their child's learning. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, to read and study on their own. By the time, children reach Year 5 and 6 their homework will cover a wider range of tasks and curriculum content. This will ensure that, in relation to homework their transition to secondary school is as smooth as possible.

4. Homework allocation across the school

The following weekly homework guidelines will be shared with parents at the beginning of each academic year:

Reception

- Ten minutes or more a day sharing a book/reading with an adult
- Weekend activity linked to week's learning.

Year 1

- Sharing a book with an adult every day.
- Occasionally, homework relating to specific topics will be set.
- My Maths online tasks.

Year 2

- Daily reading to an adult (approx. 15mins)
- Spelling (tested in class).
- Multiplication tables (tested in class).
- My Maths online tasks.

Years 3 and 4

- 20 minutes sustained daily reading. Parents write comments in Reading Record once a week.
- Weekly Spellings (tested in class).
- Weekly literacy and numeracy tasks e.g. learning multiplication facts or completing occasional worksheets.
- My Maths online weekly task.
- R.E: Learning basic prayers using Prayer Book and Reading the 'Wednesday Word' flyer and completing associated activities.

Years 5 and 6

- 30 minutes sustained daily reading. Parents write comments in Reading Record once a week.
- Spellings to learn for weekly test
- Weekly literacy and numeracy tasks e.g. learning multiplication facts or completing occasionally worksheets.
- MyMaths online weekly task.
- R.E: Learning basic prayers using Prayer Book and Reading the 'Wednesday Word' flyer and completing associated activities.
- Project work based on the Topic for each Half Term.
- Practise instant recall of multiplication facts (Times tables)

5. Presentation

Our expectation is that the work children do at home is of the same standard as they produce in school. For example, in writing children should be encouraged to use the joined legible cursive handwriting, using pencil or black pen. All work must be dated. Homework will be completed in homework books, worksheets or using a computer as appropriate.

6. How staff will support this policy:

- Providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in class;
- Ensuring that the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to their ability;
- Communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be studied;
- Sharing the weekly homework patterns with parents during 'Meet the Teacher' meetings in September and Termly Learning conferences.
- Providing access to My Maths club for children without access to the Internet.

7. How parents can help to support children:

- Provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without distractions;
- Support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and enhances learning;
- Encourage children, support and praise them when homework is completed;
- Be actively involved in the homework of younger children in particular.

8. Pupils are expected to:

- Make full use of all the opportunities they are presented with;
- Tackle home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude;
- Take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected;
- Be organised so that necessary sheets, books and equipment are not left at school;
- Take responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

9. Managing Homework

Class teachers are responsible for ensuring that the demands of homework are manageable for pupils and parents and carers. They will also ensure there are regular patterns to homework.

10. Marking

All homework will be collected and checked on the day it is due. Teachers and Teaching assistants keep records to ensure that children are regularly completing their homework tasks. This information will be shared with parents and Phase Leaders regularly. When appropriate whole class checking and marking can be done on a whole class basis led by the teacher. Online My Maths activities are checked electronically and scores are shown at the end of each completed task. Any other homework set will be acknowledged by the teacher.

11. Feedback

Feedback is given in a number of ways:

- Discussion in class where homework is related to current topics;
- Through tests such as checking recall of times tables or spellings;
- Pupils reviewing the work done in small groups;
- Presentation of homework in class and school assemblies.
- Discussions with parents or carers at Termly Learning Conferences and other appropriate times.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Senior Leadership Team will monitor the implementation of this policy and collate feedback from parents/carers, staff and pupils. This will be used to inform the review of this homework policy.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's development cycle every 2 years.