Homework policy

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Approved by:	St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy	**Date:** December 2024
Last reviewed on:	November 2026	
Next review due by:	November 2028	

Version Control	Changes
December 2022	New policy.
December 2024	Updated to include references to Doodle Learning platform.
November 2026	No revisions.

HOMEWORK

This policy operates in line with our school mission, Catholic ethos and best safeguarding practice. St Mary's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This policy is written in accordance with Article 28 and 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity. Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Our school Mission Statement states that 'We support and encourage everybody to achieve their best in work and play'.
This homework policy supports our Mission and reiterates our school's aim to provide a range of opportunities for learners to practice and develop their skills. It acknowledges that learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important, since it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home the tasks done in class, and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills. It also helps children to become increasingly confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school, and in adult life.

AIMS

- To support each child's progress towards achieving his/her full potential with the support and co-operation of parents/carers
- To integrate homework tasks on a regular basis and increasing ratio of school/homework into planned learning opportunities from Reception class to Year Six

OBJECTIVES

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers in supporting all pupils in their learning
- To consolidate and reinforce pupils' skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- To provide resources that support and complement pupils' schoolwork
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading
- To prepare younger pupils for and encourage older pupils in the development of the confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently

WHAT CONSTITUTES HOMEWORK?

The purpose of homework changes and evolves as children get older and become increasingly more independent in their ability to apply learning and study skills.

For children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, developing a partnership with parents/carers and involving them actively in children's learning is the key purpose of homework.

For children in Key Stage Two, homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning and this should increasingly (age and ability related) become its main purpose. In addition, homework tasks will reflect specific class focuses.

The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of the tasks set and the way they are planned to support learning.

Homework should include daily reading, such as

- sharing of books - reading aloud and listening to other people reading
- reading independently, commenting orally, sometimes in writing, on fiction and non-fiction texts

- reading in order to undertake independent research for a topic

Homework may also include:
- Targetted or individualised Doodle Learning activities in maths, spelling and English
- Spelling practice – often in the form of games in order to practice key words, spelling patterns
- Numeracy games – often to reinforce knowledge of number bonds and multiplication tables

In addition, Homework tasks for children in Key Stage Two (aged 7-11 years) should gradually increase in demand and include, where relevant:
- Finding/researching information
- Reading in preparation for lessons
- Preparation for oral presentations
- Subject related written assignments
- Revision of knowledge and concepts

MANAGEMENT OF HOMEWORK

Class teachers will:
- provide a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate and extend learning in school
- ensure that children have a clear understanding of tasks set
- communicate homework to parents through their class 'weekly homework sheet'

Pupils will:
- make full use of the opportunities they are presented with
- tackle homework tasks with a positive attitude
- complete homework within specified time allocations

Parents will:
- support their children's learning, giving equal importance to homework tasks whether of a practical, research or written nature
- provide a suitable quiet place for children to work, ensuring that younger children work with an adult and older children are enabled to become increasingly independently
- make it clear to their children that they value homework and support school in explaining how it supports and enhances learning

APPENDIX 1

Minimum expectations of suggested time allocation for Homework

Year group	**Suggested Time Allocation (weekly)**	**To include**
RECEPTION	30 minutes per week	Daily reading Alphabet and Numeracy games
YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2	1 hour per week	Daily reading Daily Doodle learning activities (maths, spelling and English) Spelling and Numeracy games 'Supported' written tasks.
YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4	1.5 hours per week	Daily reading Daily Doodle learning activities (maths, spelling and English) Spelling and Numeracy games Written tasks

		Assignments related to other curricular areas
YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6	30 minutes per school day (2.5 hours per week)	Daily reading Daily Doodle learning activities (maths, spelling and English) Spelling and Numeracy games Written tasks Assignments related to other curricular areas Revision programmes

This policy was informed by:-

- Our School's Mission Statement;
- Headteacher communications with staff, pupils and parents;
- EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) research into homework
- DfE Guidelines on homework;
- Consultation with governors.

APPENDIX 2

St Mary's CVA, Marple Bridge
Information for Parents of Children in Y1 and Y2

KS1 Reading and Homework

READING
We would like to take this opportunity, at the beginning of the new school year, to inform you about the reading system for children in Y1 and Y2, so that parents and children are clear about which books come home each day and how this links in with homework tasks.

All children in Y1 and Year 2 will bring reading books home during the week. These books will

- have been chosen by your child from a special selection gathered by the teacher
- be appropriate for her/ his ability
- possibly contain additional, very useful and interesting notes for adults, showing how to make full use of all opportunities provided in the book to extend thinking/ learning
- be appropriate for 2 days for homework activity; books will be changed on Monday and Wednesday, to allow each book to be enjoyed over 2 nights
- be brought home on more than one occasion, perhaps. This is to be encouraged: we all like to return to familiar and favourite texts, so please avoid saying 'Oh! We've already had this one!'

All children in Y1 and Y2 will continue to bring their Oxford Reading Tree (aka ORT or 'Biff and Chip') scheme book home each Friday. This text will have been used as a teaching resource during the week – i.e. an adult will have read this book with your child within a group. Additional discussion and activities may also have taken place.

SPELLING
Children need to learn to read words on sight and also be able to spell a range of words easily. Spelling will be approached in school in a variety of ways which will support your child's learning very well. Your child's weekly homework sheet will regularly outline spelling patterns that have been covered in class work. This is supplemented by Doodle spell activities related to spelling patterns taught in Y1 and Y2.

HOMEWORK SHEETS
In addition to Doodle Learning, children will continue to bring home a weekly homework sheet. This contains details of the class learning for that week and there may also be ideas for how to practise or extend thinking

in different subjects. Much of this work is discussion based, but some may lend itself to written work. As parents, you therefore have the opportunity to closely engage with your child's school curriculum.

LIAISON BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

Each book bag contains a book for recording your child's reading. This will be noted regularly in school.
Blue Book Bags will be kept in each classroom rather than cloakrooms. This means that each day, children can have easy access to their bags for changing books. For younger children adults will make sure that letters, sheets and books are safely placed in children's bags.

Older children will be encouraged to independently manage the contents of their book bags.

We hope that you will continue to enjoy working alongside us in partnership to instil in all our children an interest in, and a love of, reading.