



United Through Jesus in Faith, Love and Learning

Date of adoption: St. Paul's Catholic Primary School ('the School') adopted this policy – November 2015

Date of review: This policy is will be reviewed in *July 2017*

PRINCIPLES

We recognise the importance of the role of the parent as a child's first educator. This role does not diminish once their child is in school. A working partnership between school and home enhances the educational development of the child and so helps raise attainment. We regard any help that parents feel able to offer their child(ren) at home as extremely worthwhile.

Helping a child with homework can and should be a positive experience. The individual attention a parent can give, even if only for a short time, can help to motivate a child, further build confidence and self-esteem and help progress. A parent's attention, focused on the kind of learning a child does at school also means that the child understands the value his or her parents put on education.

The key purposes of homework are

- to reinforce learning that has taken place in class
- to carry out or complete activities thus freeing up classroom time
- to provide an opportunity for pupils to revise for exams

How does the child benefit?

Homework:

- extends the time given to learning
- reinforces learning undertaken during the school day
- provides an opportunity to practise certain skills
- extends learning in a context unlike that of the classroom
- gives the child the opportunity to work independently or with the support of an adult on a one to one level
- gives children the opportunity to discuss and explain what they are doing, so that they develop a deeper understanding
- can be fun
- increases children's motivation
- helps learning to be valued by the family as well as by the school
- provides learning opportunities outside school, such as visits to museums, involvement in household projects e.g. cooking. This can help give learning relevance, variety and enjoyment.

How do parents benefit?

Homework:

- keeps parents abreast of what their child can and cannot do.
- provides a picture of the type of learning that is happening in school
- enables parents to help reinforce learning for their child
- provides a framework to clarify how parents can best help.

The school's role is to:

- provide suitable and varied homework tasks which consolidate or extend children's learning.

- clearly communicate its expectations of the work to be carried out.
- give appropriate feedback on work undertaken at home e.g. by discussing or displaying work.
- ensure that children and parents understand fully when homework is given out and when it is expected to be completed.

What homework is set?

Homework is set that the teacher believes your child can achieve with increasing independence. **It is never helpful for another person to do the homework for the child** or to help them too much. Please leave the homework if you believe it to be unachievable and let the teacher know the difficulties your child had. We need to know so that we can best meet their needs and make future homework most useful.

An information sheet will be sent home at the beginning of each term detailing days that homework will be set.

Early Years

Phonics
Reading
Number games
Holiday projects

Key Stage 1

Daily reading (15 minutes a day)
Bug Club online quizzes
Spellings each week.
Maths number games/learning facts.
Times tables in Year 2
Comprehension exercises for Year 2

Lower Key Stage 2

Daily reading (20 minutes a day)
Spellings and sentence writing
Maths – learning tables and mental number facts
Termly Topic Project – including research
Weekly comprehension exercises

Upper Key Stage 2

Reading from a wider variety of books
Weekly reading comprehension exercises
Spellings
Learning challenging vocabulary
Learning numerical facts
Pre-learning homework when appropriate
Preparation for formal assessments.

We also recognise that relaxation and play are an important element of children's development.

There is an expectation from the school that all children will complete all homework tasks and support from parents/carers is greatly appreciated in ensuring that homework is successfully completed and that it is also a positive and rewarding experience.

It is expected that parents inform teachers should homework not be completed or handed in on time.