

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Homework Policy



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Homework Policy
2024-25



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1. School Mission

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School our Mission is:

**TO LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS
BY
LEARNING TOGETHER
LOVING OURSELVES
LOVING EACH OTHER
LOVING ALL PEOPLE
LOVING LIFE ITSELF
AND
CONSTANTLY STRIVING FOR
EXCELLENCE
WORTHY OF OUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS.**

2. Rationale

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we believe that homework complements classroom learning, fosters a strong partnership between home and school and instils a sense of responsibility and independence in pupils. Grounded in our Catholic values, we aim to nurture pupils holistically—academically, spiritually and socially. Homework serves as a bridge to reinforce classroom teaching while encouraging families to participate actively in their child's learning journey.

Our expectations are that pupils complete three piece of homework per week:

- Reading
- Maths
- Spelling

Further details are outlined below.

3. Aims of Homework

- To consolidate and reinforce skills and concepts learned at school.
- To encourage independent learning, responsibility and time management.
- To promote a love for lifelong learning through meaningful and engaging tasks.
- To involve parents in the educational progress of their child.

4. Homework Expectations

4.1 Reading

YR	KS1	KS2
<p>Books: Children will bring home a Little Wandle Phonics book, matched to their reading ability. Additionally, children will bring home two sharing books, stories which can be read (by an adult) for the child's enjoyment.</p> <p>Expectations: 5-10 minutes of daily shared reading with a parent or caregiver, focusing on decoding skills, comprehension and enjoyment.</p> <p>Change of books: All books are collected in on a Monday and new books are issued to the children on a Tuesday.</p>	<p>Books: Children will bring home a Little Wandle Phonics book, or a colour banded reading book if they have completed the Little Wandle scheme, matched to their reading ability. Additionally, children will bring home a sharing book, a story which can be read for the child's enjoyment.</p> <p>Expectations: 10-15 minutes of shared reading with a parent or caregiver, focusing on decoding skills, comprehension and enjoyment.</p> <p>Change of books: All books are collected in on a Monday and new books are issued on a Tuesday.</p>	<p>Books: Some children may continue to bring home a Little Wandle Phonics book until they reach the end of the scheme. Following this, children will bring home a book of their choosing from the class library.</p> <p>Expectations: 15–20 minutes of independent reading, followed by a brief discussion about the text with a family member to ensure understanding.</p> <p>Change of books: Children are encouraged to change their books independently when they reach the end of their chosen text.</p>

Reading Diary: Parents are encouraged to sign their child's reading diary once per week.

4.2. Spelling

Spelling Lists

Pupils will be tested on a list of 10 age-appropriate spelling words each week, drawn from the school's phonics (Little Wandle) and spelling (No Nonsense Spelling) programmes. In conjunction with this, incorporated within the 10 weekly words, children will also be tested on the Common Exception Words (CEWs) outlined for each year group in the National Curriculum.

Spelling test lists are sent out to parents for each half term via the year group curriculum newsletter.

Spelling Tests

YR	KS1	KS2
Children in YR do not have a weekly spelling test. Instead, Little Wandle worksheets are sent home for children to reinforce sounds learnt and letter formation that has been taught that week.	Each Friday, children are tested on the 10 words from the list sent out to parents to reinforce the spelling rule taught that week. Results are logged by the class teacher and shared with the children.	

4.3 Maths

Times Tables Rockstars (Arithmetic Practice)

Pupils should practice number facts (e.g., number bonds and times tables) appropriate to their year level.

- YR to Y2: Number recognition, counting, and simple addition/subtraction.
- Y3 to Y6: Mastery of times tables (up to 12x12) and operations involving fractions, decimals and percentages.

5. Optional Home Learning

Opportunities for additional home learning will be shared periodically through the weekly newsletter or the half-termly class newsletter. These may include:

- Activities connected to the liturgical year i.e. preparation during Lent and Advent
- Learning tasks aligned with the Year Group Curriculum Map

This ensures families have opportunities to engage in tasks that complement both spiritual and academic growth.

6. General Guidelines

- Homework is designed to be age-appropriate and not burdensome.
 - **Reception:** Approximately 15 minutes per evening.
 - **Years 1–2:** Approximately 20 minutes per evening.
 - **Years 3–6:** Approximately 25 minutes per evening.
- Parents are encouraged to provide support and a quiet workspace for their child but should allow the child to complete tasks independently whenever possible.

- Homework should not cause undue stress. If there are concerns, parents are encouraged to communicate with the class teacher.

7. **Monitoring and Feedback on Homework**

- Teachers will review homework regularly, providing verbal feedback and recognition for positive effort and achievement e.g. Times Table Rockstar certificates and stickers.

8. **Special Considerations and Adaptations**

- Your child's homework is designed to cater to their individual needs; however, if you have any concerns or require further support, please don't hesitate to speak with the class teacher.

9. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- This policy will be reviewed biannually by the senior leadership team. At every review, the policy will be approved by the full governing body.

10. **Links with Other Policies**

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Home/School Agreement