

# **The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools**



## **Homework Policy**

**Agreed on**

**Autumn 2019**

**To be reviewed on**

**Autumn 2020**

## **Policy Aims**

Our aim as a school is to educate the whole person in the light of Christ's teachings, giving all an equal opportunity to do the best they can. This Policy sets out how the Homework we set for children balances the need to continue learning at home whilst having opportunities to take part in after school clubs and family activities.

## **Homework at The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools**

We value the support of parents/carers. We recognise that parents are the 'first educators' of their children and we believe that learning is a continuous process which is not to be confined to academic subjects.

We will continue to set homework but refocus the activities onto key knowledge needed to be literate and numerate; we set homework to help children develop their learning in reading, spelling, mathematics and to stimulate creativity.

We do this by ensuring that when homework is set it is not as a time filler but:

- a genuine opportunity for parents to engage with their child by sharing learning with them;
- a chance for children to practise skills and consolidate knowledge in reading and maths.

We recognise that homework is only one area that broadens a child's potential. Other interests and sports are encouraged and some are offered as after school clubs. We recognise that practise in any activity is key to consolidation and learning.

Homework may not always be a written task.

We also recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning while still allowing 'down time' and a chance to learn other skills such as: cooking, learning to ride a bike, join a choir or learn a musical instrument, being an active member of a sports or dance clubs or youth organisation like Beavers, playing games, building models, going swimming, painting and crafts, carrying out science experiments at home, completing jigsaws, visiting galleries, museums, places of interest and local libraries.

A breakdown of how homework is structured is provided below. Most of the homework is provided for completion over the course of a week. We hope that this helps homework fit around family lifestyles and commitments and the children's other activities.

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Homework</b>
<b>EFYS</b>	<p>Topic Sheets are given out at the start of every topic. These have ideas and activities that children can cover at home with families.</p> <p>Reading books are changed twice a week. Children to read to an adult (ideally daily) and be given an opportunity to talk about what they have read.</p> <p>Phonic Flashcards will be sent home throughout the year.</p>
<b>Key Stage 1</b>	<p>Reading with a comment from a teacher and parent 3 times a week. Book Talk about what has been read is vital for vocab development and comprehension.</p> <p>Spelling will focus on sounds and words covered in RWI sessions that week. In Year 2 the focus will be on common exception words.</p> <p>Maths will consist of one piece per week to consolidate work covered in class.</p> <p>One project per term.</p>
<b>Lower Key Stage 2</b>	<p>Reading records to be signed by parents 3 times a week and checked by class teacher.</p> <p>Discussion about what they are reading and some prediction activities are encouraged. The children cannot read enough!</p> <p>Spelling Shed Activities will be set on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Times Table Rockstars Activities will be set on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Parents can request further extension homework with will be set via our Purple Mash software.</p>
<b>Upper Key Stage 2</b>	<p>Reading for at least 10 minutes every night. Reading records to be signed by parents 3 times a week and checked by class teacher.</p> <p>Weekly set spellings and Spelling Shed Activities.</p> <p>Times Table Rockstars to enhance rapid recall of Tables facts.</p> <p>Purple Mash activities (Sept-Dec Year 5).</p> <p>CGP Homework Books used from (January onwards in Year 5, from September in Year 6)</p> <p>SATS Past Papers from Spring Term in Year 6</p>

During the consultation period Pupil Voice clearly expressed that there should be consequences for not completing homework. These consequences will vary from each year group and will be proportionate. These will be communicated to you in September at welcome meetings.

This policy has considered the views and feedback of:

- Children
- Parents
- Staff
- Governors

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body has:

Delegated powers and responsibilities to the Executive Headteacher to oversee the development of this policy, to ensure its implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

### **Role of the Headteacher**

The Executive Headteacher will:

Decide if homework should be set and in broad terms what form that homework should take;

Promote the agreed policy (this policy) by publishing it;

Ensure that homework is built into teachers' planning;

Provide supportive guidance for parents;

Keep up to date with new developments and research regarding homework.

### **Role of the Teachers**

Teachers must:

Integrate homework into their planning;

Set homework in line with this policy;

Explain when, what and how the work is to be done so that each child understands;

Ensure that homework is based around what has been covered in class;

Ensure children feel that their work is valued.

### **Role of Parents/Carers**

Parents and Carers are asked to:

Place the onus for knowing what homework is set and for completing homework on their child (age dependent)

Provide a suitable place in their home where their children can concentrate on their tasks;

Establish a homework routine and provide materials like pens, pencils etc;

Find time to work with their child or be at hand if a problem arises;

Contact the school if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or if their child is having difficulties doing it.

### **Role of Children**

Children are asked to:

Complete their homework and hand it in on time;

Listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them;

Complete their homework using appropriate writing materials;

Have a go at all their homework activities and let their teacher know if they experience any difficulties.

### **Marking**

Homework will be marked in line with our Feedback and Marking Policy.

### **Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy**

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed every 2 years or when the need arises. Views on homework from staff, parents/carers, children and governors will be collected. Any suggestions for improvement should

be made to the Executive Headteacher.