



Surrey County Council
Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

At St Joseph's we believe that education is a partnership between school, parents and the community. An element of this is the link between class-work and the child's experience outside school. By involving children and parents in carefully chosen home tasks we can develop this link in a positive and meaningful way.

This policy has been formulated by the teaching staff of the school and forms a consistent and progressive approach to the setting of homework throughout the school.

Homework must be seen as an extension of the work in the school and will be used as a means of supplementing the work being undertaken in classes.

The amount of homework set should reflect the age of the child and the time required completing it. It must be differentiated to meet the needs of the child, and teachers will need to be mindful of the fact that appropriate support may or may not be available to the child when completing the task.

Purpose of homework

- To develop an effective partnership between school and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the school in the Home School Agreement
- To reinforce skills and understanding – particularly in English and Mathematics
- To explore resources for learning of all kinds at home
- To extend school learning
- To encourage children to develop confidence and self-discipline
- To develop a partnership with parents/carers in order to involve them actively in children's learning
- To provide activities that give opportunities for children to talk to interested adults about what they are learning
- To practise skills in a supportive environment
- To encourage a regular routine for homework

We are sensitive to the fact that there are times when homework is not appropriate because of family circumstances. Therefore in specific circumstances we do not expect children to take work home.

We see completion of homework as vital to ensuring that children attain well and learn good study habits. Children who fail to complete homework will be asked to explain why; teachers will inform parents if homework is not being returned regularly. Homework catch up will occur at lunch time or break time for pupils who have failed to complete homework on time or who need extra support.

The Governors and staff of St Joseph's recognise the need for children to have the time to follow out of school interests and family activities, and the attached guidelines and time allocations allow for these important things to take place. This has been particularly important when deciding on the days when homework will be set and collected.

All homework will be available on the school VLE each week. Paper copies can be made available if the VLE is not accessible, parents should speak to their class teacher if this needed.

Special educational needs

Although it is seen as important that children identified as having special educational needs do as much in common with other children as possible there will be occasions when they may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class. Such homework may be set/marked by the class teacher or special needs co-ordinator (SENCO).

Homework expectations

Children are naturally enthusiastic and eager to learn in the early years of their education and it is important not to smother this enthusiasm by putting undue pressure on the children. Short bursts of work are far more beneficial than long periods. Reading should be fun and children, as well as reading aloud to an adult, should learn to read through listening to stories and sharing books. As the children progress, common words and spellings are introduced from the national curriculum. In addition to these spellings, children will be encouraged to learn the spellings of key vocabulary which will directly relate to children's learning challenge topics or other areas of learning.

Role of parents and carers in supporting pupils

Parents and carers should be encouraged to:

- support the homework policy by working in partnership with their child and his/her teacher
- ensure work is received from/returned to school
- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which a child can do homework, free from distractions and at an appropriate time of the day.
- encourage children to complete the work neatly, to the best of his/her ability (but don't do it for them!)
- listen to spellings/times tables, and read instructions to children where necessary
- encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework.

Role of children when given homework

Children should:

remember to look on the VLE and return homework on time

- ensure they know what to do BEFORE the deadline and ask their teacher for help if they don't know what to do
- make their parents aware they have homework
- present their work as neatly as possible
- attempt their work first before asking for help at home.

Supporting children's learning

Learning can be supported by other activities at home, e.g.

General		Education City and Purple Mash are good online programmes that pupils have log ins to access the educational games and resources.
Reading	-	taking books home and bringing reading material from home to school, using the public library, playing reading games, vocabulary building games and wider experiences
Writing	-	notices, shopping lists, letters, diaries, stories, making books
Drama	-	creating a dressing up box, discussing TV and films, going to the theatre, joining a drama club
Maths	-	Times Tables Rock Stars, playing number games, songs, rhymes
Science	-	visiting museums, country walks, growing things, keeping pets
Technology	-	making and baking at home, crafts, visiting factories, Lego and construction building
Music	-	playing an instrument, collecting CDs, attending concerts
PE	-	joining clubs, cycle, walk
Geography	-	getting to know the area and the world

- History** - family stories, local history, museums and places of interest
Art - drawing and painting, visiting galleries, reading picture books

HOMEWORK SCHEDULE

Please note that there is an expectation for pupils to be reading every night. This should be recorded in their reading record.

RECEPTION	Sharing/reading books with parents. Follow up work in Sound Books	10 minutes per night
YEAR 1	Sharing/reading books with parents. Weekly spellings Activity based on work in school	10 minutes per night
YEAR 2	Sharing/reading books with parents. Weekly spellings Mathematics activity Additional activity based on work in school	15 minutes per night
YEAR 3	English Mathematics Occasional topic work Reading record book Weekly spellings Weekly x tables Number star	20 minutes per night
YEAR 4	English Mathematics Occasional topic work Reading record book Weekly spellings Weekly x tables Number star	25 minutes per night
YEAR 5	English Mathematics Occasional topic work Reading record book Weekly spellings Weekly x tables Number star	30 minutes per night
YEAR 6	English Mathematics Occasional topic work Reading record book Weekly spellings Weekly x tables Number star	30 minutes per night

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Ratified by Governing Body:	
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