

St Michael's RC Primary School and Nursery



Homework Policy

School Mission Statement



St Michael's RC Primary School is a Catholic family of faith, following the teaching of Christ. We strive to create an environment where all members of our school community become caring, independent and resilient individuals who fulfil their potential.

"I came so that you may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers, teaching assistants and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

Rationale for Homework

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims / Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote co - operation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to prepare for future planned class work ;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future;

Types of Homework

At St Michael's we set a variety of homework activities.

- In the Foundation Stage Unit (FS 1 and FS 2) emphasis is placed on promoting Early Reading alongside pupils' "Special Books".
- Reading is a key priority across the entire school to enable all pupils to access the curriculum.

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2...

- Children will be expected to complete reading every night either from a school reader in the reading scheme or if free readers from a book of the child's choice which has been accepted by the class teacher. The pages read and the amount of time spent on the reading task should be noted in the child's homework journal/ contact book and signed by the parent
- Children will be expected to learn spellings and multiplication tables as a regular homework task. These will be set on a Monday and put into each child's contact book/learning journal. These will be tested every Friday morning after praise assemblies.
- Children will also be expected to complete differentiated Mathematics Tasks and Literacy tasks as appropriate. In KS1 this will be a maths quiz/test set on a Friday and collected in every Wednesday. In Lower KS2 maths or literacy will be set on a Friday and be collected on the Wednesday and in Upper key stage 2 maths test/quiz and literacy will be set each week. There may be some variation for Y6 and Y2 as SATS approach.
- More creative, open ended homework may be issued ie: to research a topic.

- Homework activities set for a half term or end of term period will be posted on the school website on the relevant class page so that all children and parents/carers are fully aware of the homework content. This will be sign posted to parents via the newsletter.
- All homework should be recorded in the child's homework journal/ contact book. Results of mental maths/tables/spellings tests will be recorded in the journal with any incorrect spellings that the child may have made in their tests recorded so that parents/carers can see the mistakes that their child has made and can support them at home.
- The homework journal/contact book will then be signed by the teacher every Friday and it is an expectation that all parents will also sign the contact book to acknowledge receipt of the information given.

Inclusion / Differentiation / Personalisation

Homework issued should always be "personalised" and the homework tasks set by class teachers should be differentiated and appropriate to the ability of each child, with sufficient challenge.

Amount of Homework / Time Allocation

Reasonable timescales should be given for tasks to be completed in order that children develop greater independence and manage their time accordingly.

We encourage pupils and parents to complete homework tasks within reasonable, demarcated time limits.

Homework issued to pupils should reflect the quality of the task and not the quantity.

In Key stage 1 the expectation is that each child will be given:

Reading

Spellings

Tables when the appropriate age has been met

In key stage 2 the expectation is that each child will be given:

Reading

Spellings

Tables

1 piece of written homework set on a Friday to be completed and handed in no later than the following Wednesday.

The Role of Parents

Parents have an important role to play in supporting their child with homework tasks. We invite them to support their child / children as and when they feel is necessary and to encourage their child to gradually gain independence when completing tasks.

Any issues with homework should be discussed with the teacher by seeing the parents at the end of the school day in the playground or by making an appointment to have a meeting or by having a simple telephone conversation. If the parent/carer is not able to do this then a note to that effect should be written by the parent/carer in the child's journal to communicate any problems to the teacher.

Use of computing

The use of computing and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available and the speed with which it can be accessed.

However, we expect pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something and expressing it in their own words, not merely downloading material and printing it out.

Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the internet.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed carefully as part of our ongoing monitoring programme. This includes regular book scrutiny and consultation with all stakeholders.

This policy was formally adopted in September 2015.

Next Review Date: September 2017.

Chair of Governors _____

Headteacher _____