

Homework Policy

Mission Statement

To follow in Jesus' footsteps, caring for each other when we work, play and pray.

Intent

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we recognise that all children have rights as outlined in the UN Convention. As duty bearers, we have the responsibility to respect these rights and are committed to supporting our children through their education and to ensure that they are rights-holders. We are committed to promoting resilience amongst our pupils and developing their independent learning skills. The school's Catholic ethos strives to create a learning environment where every child is encouraged and enabled to develop to their full and unique potential as human beings, made in the image and likeness of God. We are committed to encouraging the child to develop their own work ethic and ethos beyond the environment of the school.

We aim to provide our pupils with: their 'right to 'get information that is important to your well-being from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful and help you find and understand the information you need' as stated in Article 17.

The right to 'a good quality education: you should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can' as stated in Article 28. The right to 'be an education that helps you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people' as stated in Article 29.

1 Introduction

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

2 Rationale for homework

Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home.

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 that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 Aims and 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 cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to provide children with a platform to carry out enriching activities at home;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Amount of homework

Children should not be expected to spend significantly longer on homework than the guidelines set out below. It does not matter if activities do not take as long as the guide times as long as they are useful. At St Joseph's teachers will organise homework carefully so that children are not expected to do too much on any one day and sufficient time is given to complete homework (at least 3 days will be given between the setting and handing in of homework).

The guidelines for homework for primary school children are:

Foundation- Activities will be varied. We would expect children consolidate their phonics skills and counting skills and may not have a set time.

Years 1 and 2: 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6: 30mins per week day

5 Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to those pupils' Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

6 Information for parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If parents wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, after discussing with the teacher first, parents or carers should do so using the complaints procedure.

What if I think my child should do lots more homework?

We would firstly like to encourage parents to ensure children enjoy being children and allow time for playing, going on visits, talking with family members and going to clubs outside of school. These activities, as you know, are really important for developing an emotionally stable and rounded child with the skills needed for life.

If you do still feel that you wish your child to complete more work at home, we suggest several optional extras. Look at the suggestions in our 'Top 10 Tips' section which is located on our school website in the parents' section. There are a plethora of activities available to children on the internet e.g. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>. An optional project will be set for each year group once a term that will relate to what they are learning in History, Geography, Art or Science. An opportunity will be given for children to share these with their teachers and/or peers.

There are plenty of educational activity books available commercially that you may like your children to complete. These are normally targeted as specific year groups or age groups.

Feedback on your child's homework

The children need to know how well they have done and what they could do better. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons, or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work. If a child has difficulties with a piece of homework, they should discuss it with their teacher or you might wish to discuss the problem with us yourself.

Should I help my child with homework?

Homework allows you to see what your children are doing and to support their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education.

We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved - as long as they do not take over too much! If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher. They will be pleased to see you and will help you to get the balance right.

I am taking my child on holiday during term time, can the teacher send homework to be completed while we are away?

We strongly advise that you do not take your child out of school during school time. We will not supply additional homework for this time as the teachers are already preparing planning, resources and homework for children in school.

'There are 190 statutory school days a year; so there are 175 other days (weekends and school holidays) available for holidays which would not have a negative effect on your child's education. By taking your child on holiday in term time you may be giving them an unspoken message that school doesn't matter. Some children find it difficult to renew friendships with other pupils when they return to school and they will miss out on essential work that later skills are built on.'

7 Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our Local Governing Body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. Parents and carers complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and the Local Governing Body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. The Local Governing Body may, at any time, request from the Principal a report on the way in which homework is organised in school.

This policy will be reviewed in two years or earlier if necessary

Reviewed: Autumn 2022