



St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

Date Policy Last Reviewed: 1 September 2021

Signed by:

_____	Headteacher	Date: _____
_____	Chair of Governors	Date: _____

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At St. Peter's we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

WHY DO WE GIVE HOMEWORK?

We believe that homework is important because:

- It can inform parents about work going on in class
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for one to one adult time
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition, sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts
- It helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of High School.

HOMEWORK AT OUR SCHOOL

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, St. Peter's is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning. We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines.

Individual teachers are happy to give advice.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves. Discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

OUR ROUTINES AND EXPECTATIONS

Homework provided is given at the discretion of the class teacher to consolidate current learning. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills. There should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected. Homework given will be sent in a book or homework folder.

The tasks set will always need to be handed in. Some homework may not be marked as there are other ways in which teachers can respond or give feedback, for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work onto a display or transferring work into class books.

These are the current expectations:

Reception – daily reading, learning key words and engaging with a piece of home learning from the topic menu.

Year 1 – daily reading, weekly spellings which are given on a Tuesday and tested the following Tuesday. One piece of topic work from the home learning menu per half term. Again, many of the tasks will involve paired work with your child!

Year 2– daily reading, weekly spellings and a weekly consolidation task. One piece of topic work from the home learning menu per half term.

Years 3 – daily reading, weekly times tables, weekly homework books, including English and Maths, spellings and two pieces of topic work from the home learning menu per half term.

Years 4 and 5 – daily reading, weekly times tables), spellings and one piece of topic work from the home learning menu per half term. Other activities to consolidate class learning will be given at the discretion of the class teacher.

Years 6 – daily reading, weekly times tables, spellings and 2 longer tasks each week – English and maths. Usually there will be one extended piece per term. Homework will be increased in year 6 in preparation for SATs and also as part of the transition to High school.

Occasionally extended projects running for a few weeks will be set.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black pen.

As far as possible, homework will be related to class topics. This is important as it helps parents to know more about what is going on in class and to support enthusiasm for learning. Parents might, for example, find themselves supporting research of Roman Gods, finding out about grandparents' experience of school or measuring objects around the home. This also means that each child can pursue a set task at their own level of ability.

Increasingly teachers are using the web for homework. This may be directing children and parents to play a specific game from Interactive Resources or, to comment on a blog.

In the term prior to SAT tests, the Year 6 children will be given additional revision work.

There will be some circumstances where some children will be asked to complete homework tailored to their specific needs. Again, this will be discussed with parents. If you take holidays during term-time, **something we actively discourage**, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organize a holiday diary and encourage children to read.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance. If you still have concerns, please talk with Mrs Groarke, the Head teacher.

Adopted: October 2018