



## St Anthony's Primary School Homework Policy 2015-6

Homework is anything undertaken by children outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school.

### **We in St Anthony's value Homework.**

- It is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to his / her development.
- It keeps parents informed of their child's children's progress in class.
- It promotes co-operation between the home and school and provides an opportunity for parents and children to discuss work undertaken in class.
- It plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment.
- It is a means of revising and consolidating learning, and practising skills taught in class especially in numeracy and literacy
- It develops the child as an independent learner.
- It helps children develop good work habits for the future.

We support the routine of homework and value work that is meaningful and reflects the activities in class.

### **Teachers, parents and of course pupils have responsibilities**

#### **Teachers**

- Ensure that homework relates to classroom activities
- Ensure that instructions are clear and explicit
- Be consistent in their approach to homework
- Ensure homework is well matched to the children's ability.
- Ensure homework is marked.

#### **Parents**

- Make sure the child / children have a quiet place to undertake homework.
- Offer help and advice if asked.
- Help the child to develop a regular homework habit. Same time and place every night.
- Respect the child's knowledge and skills.

- **Sign homework every night commenting if necessary.**

**Children.**

- Accept responsibility for the completion of their homework to the best of their ability.
- Ensure homework is completed neatly and tidily.
- Ask for help from teacher and family if necessary.
- Ensure the work is completed punctually and ready for marking.

As children move through the school the amount of homework given will increase. It is also important to remember that children will take different amounts of time to complete identical pieces of work. Therefore when coming to a decision about the length of time to be allocated for children regarding homework, there are several factors to consider:

- The same piece of work may take different children a varied amount of time.
- Some teachers - particularly those teaching the older children set work that is not expected the next day. Rather, it would be expected at the end of the week or at another time. This gives students the opportunity to plan their work. This management of time is an important life skill.
- Children undertaking external examinations will be expected to complete extra homework assignments

**Amount of Homework.** The information below is for guidance only.

Class	Time
P1	Up to 10 minutes
P2	Up to 15 minutes
P3	Up to 20 minutes
P4	Up to 30 minutes
P5	Up to 30 minutes
P6	Up to 45 minutes
P7	Up to 45 minutes

- A parent is in the best position to know when their child has done enough, is stressed or is not able to complete work. A student will not be expected to complete homework where a note from the parents / guardians is received. In these instances the note should indicate circumstances that are outside the child's / parents control eg

illness, family circumstances, difficulty of work etc

- Completion of homework is a part of the child developing responsibility. Parents therefore are asked not to write notes if the child has not completed homework due to **circumstances within his / her control.** eg Left books in school, didn't record homework in diary etc. In these cases the child will be normally asked to complete the homework for another date or will complete homework during break or dinnertimes.
- To help the child develop responsibility and self organisation all children in classes P4 - P7 are issued with homework diaries at the beginning of each year. Children will record homework to be undertaken and will use it as a record of work completed. Parents are asked to monitor their child's /children's diary closely.

### **Marking homework.**

Teachers will employ different strategies for marking homework. This can range from hearing children read individually , as part of a group, marking books individually, children marking each others homework. The method used will be influenced by time demands on the teacher. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised.

### **Homework activities**

As children move through the school the nature of homework will change. For the younger child the main purpose is to develop relationships with parents and to involve them directly in their children's learning. At this stage activities such as nursery rhymes, learning spelling and number facts and of course reading together are important and valuable.

As children get older homework provides the opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning and this should increasingly become its main purpose. It is important that children should learn the habit of devoting periods of time to studying on their own. By the time children reach Primary 7 homework will cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content. Children in KS2 will increasingly be set homework tasks which cover longer periods (1 - 2 weeks). eg Reading a library book and completing a book review In these cases the children will learn to plan and complete assignments thus developing the habit of independent study.

### **Reading.**

Regular reading is vital. For the younger children ( Foundation Stage ie P1 and P2 ) this means regular reading with parents / guardians, looking at and discussing books together. Reading practice and listening to parents read then becomes essential right through the primary school.

All primary school children should read to their parents, listen to their parents read or if they are fluent readers read on their own every night.

**Listening to parents read can be very beneficial particularly for the younger children**

### **Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 (P1 - P4) Examples of homework activities.**

- Children read and recite Nursery Rhymes with parents.

- Children take books home to read with parents
- Spellings taught in class may be practised at home.
- Mathematical tables to be learned with parents
- Reading to parents.
- Research topics at home prior to study in school eg transport, talking to grandparents.
- Written English exercises - comprehension, grammar, missing words
- Written maths exercises
- Collecting materials for use in class - eg materials for science lessons.
- Completion of work begun in class.

**Key Stage 2 (P5 - P7) Examples of homework activities.**

- Mathematical homework set routinely each week - work directly related to work in class or as consolidation of work already learned.
- Literacy homework set routinely each week. Grammar, Comprehensions, inferring and speculating
- Spellings taught in class may be practiced at home.
- Mathematical tables to be learned
- Learning by rote - poetry, prayers etc.
- Research prior to study in class eg - Vikings, Victorians, Living things.
- Research prior to giving a talk to classmates about certain subjects - Vikings, Materials etc
- Preparation for oral book reviews
- Written book reviews.
- Completion of work begun in class.
- Homework as a means of helping children prepare for examinations
- Homework to ensure prior learning has been understood

All students are expected to read each night. Homework is not normally set for Fridays.

**Monitoring homework.**

The Principal and vice principal will monitor a sample of the children's homework periodically. They will evaluate the presentation, suitability and marking of the work.

This homework policy will be reviewed bi-annually by SMT