

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School
Homework Policy

Homework at the Holy Spirit School will be children engaging in:

- **Reading as widely as possible for enjoyment**
- **Regular learning of their key facts including number facts, Spelling, punctuation and Grammar facts (SPAG) and 'tricky' vocabulary, (as set out in their year group's 'Maths Facts' and SPAG facts Sheet) and weekly spellings. Effective recall of these facts is of the highest importance and children need to rehearse them regularly throughout the year.**
- **Other tasks -such as small projects- as determined by the teacher to extend and deepen the children's understanding, curiosity and 'Love of Learning'**

Dear Parents,

Please don't wait for school to send 'work' before you do 'homework'!

As a minimum, several times a week, as homework, your child should be:

Enjoying Reading for increasing amounts of time, the older they are. (Reading widely from books, magazines, comics, newspapers) Read to them, with them, discuss with them, let them read to you.

Learning their year- group's Maths and SPAG- Facts until they have them by heart- **this is absolutely vital and is the number one, most important thing you can help them with that will ensure their success in Maths and SPAG.**

What homework is available through our website?

The relevant maths facts; spelling lists; Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG)Facts; Handwriting letters

Links to parent support websites with a concise summary of what each offers:

- My maths
- Phonics play/ other phonics programmes
- Espresso
- Study Ladder

After asking for parental input in October 2015 we will now add further online resources with links through our website that will be both used by teachers to set pupil homework and available to parents to allow them to work with their children on strengthening weaknesses and developing curiosity.

The Basis of our policy comes directly from extensive research:

According to a study published by Department for Education:

(A major study which has tracked the progress of 3,000 children over the past 15 years.)

- Any time spent on homework shows benefits
- The effects were greater for children who put in extra time regularly
- What students actually do is more important than how much work the school has set.
- Children who put more time in tend to do better:- It's to do with your effort as well as your ability.
- Children who reported that they enjoyed school got better results.
- Parents can help their children succeed "against the odds" by having high aspirations for them.

- Children who did well were backed by parents who valued learning and encouraged extra-curricular activities. *"Parents' own resilience in the face of hardship provided a role model for their children's efforts,"*
- Teachers in excellent and good schools set homework that was more meaningful and more clearly linked to what the children were learning. They had a more flexible approach to setting homework, which was set to extend and deepen the children's understanding.
- In schools rated as poor, teachers set homework simply because they were required to, and the work itself did not appear to be expressly linked to what the children were learning in class. There were no examples of teachers using opportunities that arose during a lesson to set homework other than what was already planned.
- In 2012 Ministers scrapped guidelines setting out how much homework children should be set amid criticism that it can interfere with family life.