

Homework Policy

Definition of homework

Homework refers to any work or activities assigned to students as an extension of classroom work. There are three forms of homework:

1. Practice assignments to reinforce newly acquired skills. For example, pupils who have just learned a new method of solving a mathematics problem are given sample problems to solve on their own.
2. Preparation assignments to help students get ready for future topics. These assignments may include doing background research on a topic to be discussed later in class.
3. Extension assignments such as project work. Pupils must apply previous learning to complete these assignments.

Rationale

Homework can effectively extend the time that children spend on learning, providing them with opportunities to reach higher levels of attainment and make greater progress. Study skills, research skills and independence can also be enhanced through homework activities. Homework can support the attitude that learning is not confined to the classroom but that it is an open-ended and life-long activity. Homework can also improve the links between home and school, providing parents with opportunities both to support their children as they learn and to become more closely involved in that process.

Our Aims

- To ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help to continue to raise standards of attainment and enjoyment of learning.
- To improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- To provide opportunities for children, parents and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- To reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for the individual pupil.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- To encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare pupils, especially Year 6 pupils, for the transfer to secondary school.

Role of the class teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents (by means of a letter or through the homework planner in KS2) and give guidance of how they might assist their child.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently.
- To set homework that takes equal opportunities into account.
- To ensure that homework set is purposeful and links directly to the taught curriculum.
- To set homework which varies in type and style.
- To give appropriate feedback to pupils regarding their homework.

Homework statement

There are no Government guidelines for the setting of homework in primary schools, however at Holy Trinity we feel that setting homework is a vital element in supporting our pupils in the learning process.

Time Allocation for Homework at Holy Trinity

Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Daily library➤ Weekly homework sheets / activities (either maths or literacy)➤ Song bags.➤ Different tasks sent to selected pupils.➤ Additional tasks offered over a holiday period (eg Holiday Homework booklets)➤ Homework Challenge Grid half termly.
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Reading.➤ Sight reading words, moving onto spelling when pupils ready.➤ Topic words (half termly)➤ Occasional activities connected with curriculum area (e.g. children asked to bring in an item.)➤ Homework Challenge Grid half termly➤ Additional tasks offered over a holiday period (eg Holiday Homework booklets)
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Reading➤ Handwriting homework (weekly)➤ Topic words (half termly)➤ 1 piece of maths linked to objective (weekly)➤ Words linked to phonics (weekly)➤ Additional tasks may be offered over a holiday period (eg Holiday Homework booklets)➤ Homework Challenge Grid half termly

Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading ➤ Handwriting homework (weekly) ➤ Spelling (weekly) ➤ Topic words (half termly) ➤ One additional maths based activity (weekly) ➤ Research projects linked to curriculum topics (half termly) ➤ Additional tasks may be offered over a holiday period (eg Holiday Homework booklets) ➤ Homework Challenge Grid half termly
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading ➤ Handwriting homework (weekly) ➤ Weekly spelling ➤ Topic words (half termly) ➤ One additional maths based activity each week ➤ Class teddy and journal sent to one pupil (weekly) ➤ Homework Challenge Grid half termly ➤ Additional tasks may be offered over a holiday period (eg Holiday Homework booklets)
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading ➤ Handwriting homework (weekly) ➤ Weekly spelling ➤ Topic words (half termly) ➤ One maths activity each week ➤ Homework Challenge Grid half termly ➤ Additional tasks may be offered over a holiday period (eg Holiday Homework booklets)
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading ➤ Handwriting homework (weekly) ➤ Weekly spelling ➤ Topic words ➤ One maths activity each week (including mental maths and grammar) Homework Challenge Grid half termly ➤ Additional tasks may be offered over a holiday period (eg Holiday Homework booklets)
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading ➤ Handwriting homework (weekly) ➤ Weekly spelling plus topic words ➤ Two maths activities each week ➤ Grammar task (weekly) ➤ Homework Challenge Grid half termly ➤ Additional tasks may be offered over a holiday period (eg Holiday Homework booklets)

Types of Homework

Reading

- Homework includes reading.
- Nursery pupils have the opportunity to take a book home from the daily library.
- Reception pupils take home reading books and words.
- Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils are expected to share reading with an adult, with parents/carers having the opportunity to note down progress or concerns in reading record books.

Spelling

- Lists of words to be learned according to the school's policy. (Look, read, say, cover, remember, write and check.)
- High frequency words and tricky words.
- Topic words

Mathematics

- Worksheets - extension activities and investigations to build on classroom work.
- Number bonds.
- Multiplication tables.
- Mental arithmetic.

Handwriting

- Handwriting homework to begin in Reception and is included on the Homework Challenge sheet as appropriate

Other Areas of the Curriculum

- Research to extend learning or to prepare for the next lesson.
- Complete work - e.g. copy up some corrected work into an improved format.
- Pupils to research and find out information at home or public libraries and through the use of reference materials such as encyclopaedias, books, data bases, C.D. ROMS, DVDs or Internet etc.
- Children to use their own homes/families/relatives/friends to provide information, inspiration and artefacts.
- Pupils may present findings in various formats such as Master Pieces or Fact Files for instance.
- Holiday Homework Booklets.

Special Consideration

The policy recognises that from time to time some families may find it difficult to give support to homework for various reasons. Where this is the case understanding and support will be exercised. The school offers a homework club after school and can provide opportunities to work at school during lunch or break times if working at home is impossible. There is also a parent and child ICT workshop available every Friday after school.

The homework policy should not over-burden children. Out of school time is an opportunity for children to be involved in family, church, mosque and other activities e.g. uniformed organisations, sports etc.

Children with Special Educational Needs

Teachers will consider carefully the needs of individual children and think about how they can best work with parents and carers to support their learning, including their personal and social development.

Teachers will ensure that children with special educational needs are given good quality homework tasks and work with school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (the SENCO) to make sure that the level is right.

Most Able Children

Teachers will consider carefully the needs of individual children to ensure that homework tasks are challenging. Extension type activities or activities that can be differentiated by outcome will be set.

Teachers are able to consult with the Leader for Most Able Children who will be able to direct them to additional materials held at the school and suitable web sites.

Managing and Monitoring Effectiveness

The class teacher/subject teacher will be responsible for making sure that homework is suitable for the children in the class, assessing work and ensuring that it is completed to a satisfactory standard. Guidance documents will be available for both parents/carers and children.

The SLT will monitor the administration of homework in line with the policy.

Regular consultation on the policy will be undertaken with children, parents and staff through meetings and surveys. Parent consultation evenings will provide an opportunity for parents to comment on their child's application and commitment to homework.

Equality Impact Assessment

This policy has been monitored (21/7/17) for its equality impact assessment and has been found to be of a low priority.

Review and Evaluation

January 2017

Policy to be agreed by *Governors*

Policy to be reviewed in January 2019