

# St Margaret Ward Catholic Primary School



## Home Learning Policy

**Approved: July 2018**

**Review date: July 2020**

## Introduction

Home learning is anything that children do outside the school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support children's learning. Learning can be done by the child independently or with the support of parents/carers or other adults.

## Rationale for home learning

Home learning is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents/carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed we see home learning as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents/carers. One of our core values is for children to have ambition and develop a strong desire to achieve something. Home learning supports this value.

Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst home learning is important, it should not prevent children taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part of the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

## Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of home learning 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 a partnership 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 learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future;
- to encourage children to love learning about their world and mastering new skills.

## Guidelines for home learning

**Reading:** Every child should try to read each night for approximately 15-30 minutes, depending on age. Parents/carers should not only hear children read the text, but talk about the pictures, what is happening to the characters, discuss why they are behaving in a particular way and then predict what will happen next. As well as improving their reading skills, this will also help them make their story writing more exciting as they copy techniques of established authors.

**Spellings** will be set for each class weekly and every child will bring home a spelling book with the words they need to learn. We recommend that when parents help their child to learn their spellings they use the following method:

- Look at the word carefully
- Read the word aloud
- Cover the word up

- Write the word from memory
- Check to see if the word has been spelt correctly.

Also:

- Does the child know the meaning of the word? This is a good opportunity for the child to use a dictionary to check the definitions of the words.
- Can the child use this word in the correct context? E.g. Can they put it into a sentence?

Repeat this process until the word has been spelt correctly. Children benefit from learning a few words each evening rather than leaving it to the night before the test.

Children will complete their spelling tests at the back of their spelling book. This enables parents to see how they go on and will give them the opportunity to support their child with the spelling of any words that they spelt incorrectly in the spelling test.

The majority of children in each class, will be given the following number of words to learn at home each week. Children with additional needs may be given fewer spellings or different words to learn each week.

Year Group Number of Spellings

Year Group	Number of Spellings
Year One	6-10
Year Two	10
Year Three	12
Year Four	12-15
Year Five	15
Year Six	20

### **Maths – Multiplication Tables**

Children need to practice the multiplication and division facts at home as part of their home learning. The expectation, from the government, is that children in Year 4 will know their times tables up to 12 off by heart.

The following table highlights the expectation for each year group.

<b>Expectations for Multiplication and Division Facts for each year group:</b>	
Year One	Count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. Recall and use doubles of all numbers to 10 and corresponding halves.
Year Two	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.
Year Three	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables.
Year Four	Recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 x 12.
Year Five	Revision of all multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12.
Year Six	Revision of all multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12.

## Home Learning Tasks

Our home learning tasks encourage children to apply the skills they learn in class; therefore broadening and deepening their learning. Many of the home learning tasks are designed specifically to support learning in class or consolidate learning that has taken place.

Home Learning Tasks will vary depending on which year group the child is in. Some examples of tasks will include:

- Reading a text and answering questions (comprehension).
- Completing a maths activity.
- Completing a piece of research.
- Building a model.
- Designing a game.
- A pre-learning task (completing a task at home that will help them in class).
- Children selecting a task to complete from a 'menu style selection'.
- Designing a poster.
- Completing a project.

The teacher will set a deadline for when the home learning is to be returned to school. The work will then be reviewed by the teacher and feedback given. Feedback may be a written comment by a teacher or peer. It may also be a verbal comment, given during the school day, by the class teacher.

There is an expectation that all children complete their home learning task/tasks.

Some children may be given specific homework relating directly to their targets in school. If this differs from the usual procedure, class teachers will discuss and agree with parents first.

## Amount of Homework

Year Group	Recommended Home Learning time per week
Reception	45 minutes
Year 1	1 hour
Year 2	1 hour 15 minutes
Year 3	1 hour 30 minutes
Year 4	1 hour 45 minutes
Year 5	2 hours
Year 6	2 hours 30 minutes

Pupils in Year 6 will also be provided with additional work throughout the school year to support their preparations for national assessments.

## Pupils with special educational needs

We set home learning for all children as a normal part of school life. The topics provided are accessible to all learners. We endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

## **The role of parents**

Parents/carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents/carers to encourage their child to complete the tasks that are set as a minimum requirement. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.

There are many ways in which parents/carers can support their child with their home learning:

- Providing a good working space at home.
- Talk through the piece of homework with their child and make sure they are clear about what it is asking them to do.
- Ensuring they have a pencil/pen (as well as other stationery) needed to complete the task.
- Visiting places of interest e.g. library, museums.
- Helping their child to make a models or games.

If parents/carers have any problems or questions about the home learning task, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

If a home learning book is lost or damaged, then a new book can be purchased from the school office.

If your child is finding a task too challenging and they are starting to get distressed, let them stop. Sometimes coming back to it later helps, but if you feel that they have tried their hardest and are unable to make progress, just write a note to the class teacher or speak to them in the morning to explain.

## **Non- completion of home learning**

We will expect all children to attempt their home learning work. A record will be kept. Parents of children who do not complete their homework on a regular basis will be asked to meet with their class teacher to discuss the situation.

## **Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school home learning policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues.