



Copy as of Jan 2019

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Halifax

A COMMUNITY WHERE WE LIVE, LEARN AND LAUGH TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE

Homework Policy

"A good, well-managed homework programme can help children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. It also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with opportunities to take part in their children's education" (DFE)

"There is some evidence that when homework is used regularly it is effective in improving students' attainment by as much as 5 months (over a child's school career)". (Sutton Trust 2012)

Rationale

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to provide structured weekly homework.

Implementation

1. Aims / Purposes / Functions

- a) Wherever possible homework for children will be a joint activity and will seek to:
 - show to the child that both home and school are interested in their learning.
 - demonstrate to the child that learning does not only take place in school.
 - help the child consolidate recent learning or skills that need to be practised ie: Times Tables and Spellings.
 - Provide experiences that are different from those experienced in school but which encourage them to observe, discuss, analyse and record..... Our Learning Logs are perfect examples of this type of homework.
 - Help to prepare children for their High School experience, where homework is part of the expected norm and where students are sanctioned if they do not do their homework.
 - develop even more self confidence by gaining the approval of parents or carers.
- b) Homework will be given in many different forms and may have different purposes at various stages of the child's development in school. However, the teacher will ensure that homework identified is interesting and within the capacity of the child.
- c) The quality of the work completed is more important than the quantity. Appendix 1 lists a table with general activities which children can engage in at home that are appropriate to their age. Appendix 2 gives the Government's recommendations.
- d) In general not all children learn at an even pace and some find school more challenging than others, so all children may not find the same task helpful or enjoyable. Therefore, it is also important that all children do get satisfaction and enjoyment from work done at home with

parents. Homework given by the teacher will be modified to the child's ability.

- e) The nature and amount of work will recognise the very considerable demand on the teacher's current planning and assessment requirements.
- f) In order to plan and co-ordinate the homework given to the children the school will:-
 - send out class newsletters at the beginning of each term.
 - re-inforce the need to work in collaboration with the targets set out in the Home School Reading Record, Maths and Writing Targets set with children each term.
 - Share targets at Parent Consultation Evenings.
- g) The school will also recognise a child's work by:-
 - providing and maintaining a Home School Reading Record for each child.
 - using work produced at home on displays or in assemblies eg. Learning Logs.
 - celebrating Sharing Assemblies

2) **Equal Opportunities**

Each child will be provided with the same opportunities to develop at their own pace.

3) **Special Education Needs**

This policy caters for these children who have Special Educational Needs. See also point 1b and 1d of this policy.

4) **Monitoring and Responsibilities**

- a) Teachers are responsible for ensuring homework is given, collected, marked and feedback is given to children
- b) It is the responsibility of the class/subject teacher to set homework.
- c) Concerns that homework tasks are causing undue anxiety or worry will be dealt with by the teacher and the parent. (See below)
- d) Where the class teacher has anxieties stemming from a child's response to work suggested then the class/subject teacher will send an invitation home requesting that the parent come into school to discuss the matter.
- e) If either of the above initiatives does not produce a satisfactory outcome then the issues will be placed with the Headteacher.
- f) Whilst accepting the above comments, it is important that all adults have a clear expectation that all children will be given homework and that this will be completed and recorded when returned.

APPENDIX 2

HOMWORK INFORMATION

The Government believes that a sensible programme of homework activities for children in Key Stage 1 should be designed to take, on average, about 1 hour a week. At Key Stage 2 the demands should gradually increase so that by Year 5 and 6 children are spending about 30 minutes a day (two and a half hours a week) on homework.

Recommended time allocation for homework

Year 1 and 2	1 hour/week	(reading, spellings, other literacy work and number work)
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours/week	(numeracy (1 sided), SPaG (1 sided), reading, spellings, with occasional assignments in other subjects and a half-termly Learning Log)
Year 5 and 6	2 hours / week	(Y5 - regular weekly numeracy (1 sided), SPaG (1 sided), spellings and other subjects when appropriate including a half-termly Learning Log. Y6 – regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on spellings, reading, literacy and numeracy and a half-termly Learning Log.)

Advice for Parents

- Please encourage and support their child by discussing their homework with them, positively and by providing a quiet place or time for them to do the work, if required.
- Homework is usually set over a period of time in order to help children with other regular commitments e.g. Brownies, football training or Piano lessons, to undertake both. Parents are requested to help and teach their children manage their time on such occasions. This is an important lesson for later life.
- Parents are encouraged to check and discuss homework with their child but are asked not to do the work for them. Though there is nothing wrong with joining in in some types of task to produce a good quality end product – ie: Learning Logs. If a child clearly has had problems with the Homework parents are asked to encourage them to do what they can as well as they can but let the teacher know about the difficulty.
- We understand that on occasion a child may have a good reason for not having completed Homework. It is recommended that when this happens parents should contact us to discuss the matter with the teacher. We will try be as understanding and flexible as possible.
- Weekly spellings and times table activities are available on the school website.

APPENDIX 1
Daily timetable of Homework at St. Mary's

YEAR	APPROXIMATE TIMES	EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES (these may vary throughout the year)	ROUTE OF FEEDBACK / EVALUATION
Foundation Stage	Weekdays 10 mins Weekends 20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading book daily • Letters and Sounds work. • Communication Books informing parents of additional activities linked to school topics. • Poetry Books 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal discussion with Parents. • Poetry books • Communication Book • Reading Record.
Y1 / Y2	Weekdays 10 mins Weekends 20-30 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading • Literacy & Numeracy Tasks • Spellings Weekly. (Paper or school website) • Visits • Y2 Times tables • Other Curriculum Area research. E.g. science, topic work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home / School reading record • Informal discussion with parents if needed • Homework books/folder. • Spelling Books
Y3 / Y4	Approx. 20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Daily • Numeracy • Times tables • Spellings • Unfinished work • Learning Logs (Half-termly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home/School reading record • Informal discussion with parents when needed
Y5 / Y6	Approx. 30 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Reading • Spelling rules and tables where appropriate • Numeracy • Literacy • Investigative work & SATS revision Y6 • Learning Logs (Half-termly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home/School reading record where appropriate • Homework folder • Informal discussion with parents when needed • Completed homework kept in folders in class. Sent home when appropriate.