

St. Stephen & All Martyrs' Primary School



Policy for Home Learning

Updated Summer Term 2016

“At St Stephen’s we believe that homework is an essential part of all pupils’ education. It encourages them to be creative, reflective and investigative; and develops skills in personal organisation and a sense of responsibility.”

Mission Statement

In the SSAM family we want all children to experience a happy, safe, caring and Christian environment which is at the heart of the church and local community. Our core values shape daily life and relationships, creating a secure environment which enables children to learn with enthusiasm and reach their full potential.

“We are proud of what we do as a school – we are St. Stephen and All Martyrs”

INTRODUCTION:

Homework is intended to be beneficial for pupils by extending the learning achieved within school time, laying the foundation for future self-supported home study, and promoting the home/school partnership. At St Stephen’s we believe education should be seen as a partnership between home and school, as a happy relationship with parents is essential to the success of the school. We have always enjoyed the active support of parents and other members of the community to assist us in providing the best possible education for our pupils and in the achievement of our school aims.

AIMS:

To provide a learning environment which is stimulating and challenging, so that activities, including homework, are planned in a way which makes effective use of the pupils’ and teachers’ time, successfully developing pupils’ independent learning skills.

To provide a caring and inclusive school environment, where parents support, and participate in, the life of the school in a planned and purposeful manner as partners in their children’s learning in a variety of ways, including homework.

TYPE OF HOMEWORK:

By the end of Key Stage Two, the homework programme should cover a range of tasks and curriculum content. The following are the sorts of activities that children may be asked to complete.

Homework activities for Reception children include:

- Reading their school book with an adult as often as possible through the week and at weekends.
- Learning their key words every week.
- Learning initial sounds and later sound blends for example s, a, t moving on to ch, sh, etc
- News Books
- Story and Phonic Sacks

Homework activities for Y1

- Reading with an adult as often as possible through the week and at weekends.
- Phonics homework
- Other English activities
- Maths activities including My Maths
- Other activities including topic work

Homework activities for Y2 children include:

- Reading with an adult as often as possible through the week and at weekends.
- Finding out tasks to support classwork
- Other English and Maths activities including My Maths
- Learning high frequency words
- Science or topic activities
- Phonics homework dependant on phase

Homework activities for Y3 and Y4 children include:

- Reading with an adult as often as possible through the week and at weekends.
- Comprehension skills (asking the child about the text being read at home)
- Spelling activities
- Learning Times tables
- Practising number bonds
- Other English and maths tasks including My Maths
- Research work- finding out about

Homework activities for Y5 and Y6 children include:

- Regular reading from a range of fiction and non fiction texts
- Reading with an adult as often as possible when extra support is required.
- Discussing texts with an adult, responding to questions about the context and language of the text.
- Spelling activities
- Learning tables and practising mental strategies
- Research work
- Project work
- Preparing for oral presentations
- Other English and maths and science activities including My Maths.
- SAT's revision (Year 6 only)

SUGGESTED TIME ALLOCATION:

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Reception | = | 30 minutes to 1 hour per week |
| Years 1 and 2 | = | 1 hour per week |
| Years 3 and 4 | = | 1 and ½ hours per week |
| Years 5 and 6 | = | 30 minutes per day (5 days per week) |

Each year group will provide parents and children with a copy of the homework timetable. This will inform them of when homework is set and needs handing in.

| | Homework to be completed | | Due in by |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| Monday | Reading and learning tables. Please complete reading record. | Short Maths or English task. | Wednesday |
| Tuesday | Reading and learning tables. Please complete reading record. | Spelling Task – in homework book. | Thursday |
| Wednesday | Reading and learning tables. Please complete reading record. | | |
| Thursday | Reading and learning tables. Please complete reading record. | -Times tables to learn. -English or mathematics task. -Spellings to learn - Topic task | Monday Times table speed test on Monday morning. |
| Friday | Reading and learning tables. Please complete reading record. | Parents/Carers: PLEASE SIGN HOMEWORK RECORD BOOK AND RETURN TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY FOR THE TEACHER TO SIGN. | |

COMPUTING AND HOME LEARNING:

Staff will regularly make use of ICT packages that children can access on home computers and i-Pads.

These include the following:

- Purple Mash
- My Maths
- Espresso

These programmes support a range of homework in addition to regular weekly activities.

INCLUSION:

We set homework for all children, ensure that all tasks are appropriate to the ability of the child, and endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils with special educational needs or difficulties, we refer to those pupils' Education Health Care Plans and Passports to Progress. We value and celebrate the diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

ROLE OF PUPILS:

Pupils will derive great benefit from homework if they:

- Listen carefully to the instructions they are given
- Organise themselves effectively to ensure that homework is completed on time and returned to school.
- Ensure that they take pride in their homework and that it is completed to the best of their ability

ROLE OF PARENTS:

Parents can support our homework policy by:

- Ensuring that their child reads regularly
- Providing a suitable place for homework to be done
- Making it clear that they value homework
- Encouraging and praising their child when homework is completed
- Being actively involved in homework activities as appropriate

ROLE OF TEACHERS

Each class teacher will ensure that:

- Homework is explained clearly to all children
- Homework is of high quality
- Homework is set and marked regularly with due consideration for individual ability
- Parents are informed about when their child will receive homework
- The child's approach to and the completion of homework is monitored and discussed with parent and child.

EXTENDED PROJECTS:

All year groups will be set extended projects at least once per term for the children to complete. Staff will always provide the pupils with feedback and children who complete an extended project will be given a certificate.

MONITORING OF HOMEWORK:

Each class teacher will monitor each child to ensure that they are completing their homework tasks. A record will be kept in the classroom. In KS2, parents will be informed if their child fails to complete three pieces of set homework. They may also be informed when homework is returned consistently late. In KS1, class teachers will closely monitor how often children are reading at home and regularly engage with parents using pupil reading diaries.

GENERAL:

When appropriate, staff will mark any homework that is returned by pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework and giving them feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. However, marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.

If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.

If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head Teacher first.

It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.