

Homework Policy

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Chair of Governor's Signature	<i>Diane Mason</i>

Homework

Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers, it plays an essential role in all pupils' progress.

Homework at Holy Family School has the following purpose:

- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- To use resources for learning, of all kinds, at home;
- To extend school learning, for example, through additional reading;
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- To ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- To extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision;
- To provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership through an enjoyable learning experience.
- To encourage pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school;

Key Stage 1

We use homework to develop a partnership with parents or carers, involving them actively in children's learning. Homework in this key stage will consist of regular reading, with parents and carers sharing books. All children should either read to their parents or listen to them reading for 10-20 minutes a day. Other short homework tasks will include word pots, learning spellings and number facts. Homework will also include longer-term, creative projects, linked to topic or scientific learning and follow-up written tasks associated with these subject areas. We believe in the importance of giving young children the opportunity to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

Key Stage 2

Homework in this key stage will still focus on developing regular reading habits, with children reading both to parents and independently for 20 to 30 minutes a day. Other short homework tasks will include learning spellings and times tables. As in Key Stage 1, homework will also include longer-term, creative projects, linked to topic or scientific learning and follow-up written tasks associated with these subject areas. We would aim to use these homework tasks to develop the skills of independent and collaborative learning.

Older children in KS2 should be given homework which will increase in its demands. Such work may be differentiated taking into account the pupils' needs. Homework at the upper end of KS2 may include finding information, reading in preparation for lessons, preparing oral presentations, more traditional written assignments. In Year 6 homework will cover a wide range of tasks within a regular weekly schedule. This will facilitate their transition to secondary school

In addition children may have to spend time finishing off classwork.

Recommended time allocation for homework

Y1 and Y2	1 – 1.5 hours per week (reading, spellings, other literacy work and number work)
Y3 and Y4	1.5 - 2hours per week (literacy and numeracy as for Y1 and Y2 with assignments in other subjects)
Y5 and Y6	2 – 2.5 hours per week (regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum)

The daily reading recommended for all children will be done in addition to homework for Y5 and Y6.

Special Educational Needs

Children with special educational needs should do as much in common with other children as possible. Tasks involving children with special educational needs should:

- Have a very clear focus and time-guideline
- Give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed;
- Help develop social as well as other skills where necessary;
- Be varied – and not purely written assignments;
- Be manageable for teachers
- Guidance may be provided in a home/school book.

Teacher's Role

Class teachers will be responsible for the setting of homework.

Parent's Role

Parents are asked to:

- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework
- Provide adult support for children where necessary
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework
- To sign, or in the case of Year 5 and 6 review, reading record book every night as evidence of monitoring.

Feedback

Feedback on homework should be provided soon after it is completed.

This may be carried out by: class discussions, school tests, individual comments, reviewing work in small groups.

Written feedback is not always necessary.

Feedback from parents will always be valued.

Monitoring/Evaluating

Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out by the Headteacher and relevant co-ordinators regularly during staff meeting time.

