



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day which contributes to and enhances their learning.

Aims

1. To enable the children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
2. To develop the children's skills as independent learners.
3. To maintain a strong home/school relationship in promoting learning.
4. To enable aspects of the curriculum to be explored and enriched.
5. To instil a level of self-discipline and commitment in children towards their study.
6. To improve on the levels of attainment in the areas of literacy and numeracy and by doing so improve the self-esteem of children.

Rationale

The aim of our teaching is to develop independent learners. Homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire the skills of independent learning and develop greater learning. We recognise the importance of quality family time hence our policy aims to develop opportunities to be creative rather than carry out activities that parents/carers may not understand.

Homework Tasks

There are various types of homework:

Reading

Reading is extremely important. Children should have experience of a range of books, which include the school reading scheme books as well as ones from the school and other libraries. It is important that children have access to a range of books, including poetry, play and non-fiction. All children in school are expected to read for at least 10 minutes daily. Younger children have a Reading Record and we expect the record to be signed, preferably along with a comment each time they have read at home. All children in Key Stage 2 have a reading journal.

Phonics and Spelling

Children in Reception and Year 1 follow the Bug Club scheme. Application sheets are sent home so that parents can reinforce letter sounds taught in class and practise reading and writing. Children in Years 2-6 use the No Nonsense Spelling Programme as a firm base for their learning. There is a high expectation within the new National Curriculum that pupils will learn many increasingly complex words. Learning spellings is built into each six week block with different strategies introduced and practised.

Mathematics

The school uses the New Abacus Scheme for Mathematics and will set e-learning homework to consolidate learning in class whenever teachers feel is appropriate. Times tables facts should be known by the end of Year 4. This means being able to say the answer to a multiplication or division question (up to 12x12) within 5 seconds. Therefore daily practice of times tables facts is needed and children will be tested regularly in school on a Friday.

Curriculum Topic Homework

Topic homework is an opportunity for children to choose whatever they want to celebrate their learning. Tasks set are open-ended and linked to different subjects. These pieces of homework are not marked but will have been celebrated in school. The work completed will have been viewed by the whole class and shared with pupils across the school in assemblies. Peer assessment is used to praise and give steps for improvement and is an effective strategy for instant feedback. Topic homework is set every half term and teachers provide information to their classes once homework is set. Parents will be aware of the homework topic through newsletters and the school website.

Expectations/roles of parents

You could help your child with his/her homework by:

1. Providing a quiet area, or quiet time for your child to work.
2. Encouraging and discussing ideas for Curriculum Topic Homework
3. Letting the class teacher know if your child has any difficulties while completing the homework.

Expectations of children

All children are expected to complete homework set. A homework club is provided on a weekly basis for children, with access to computers, supervised by a member of staff. The homework club is available for pupils who do not have access to the online materials at home.

A record of children who do hand in their homework will be kept by each class teacher and discussions will be held with parents/ carers as to how further support can be given, in case where homework is not completed on the expected regular basis. Homework is the school's, child's and parent's responsibility.

Social, Moral, Spiritual Cultural Development (SMSC)/British Values.

We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families and we appreciate the enrichment that this often brings. Curriculum Topic homework tasks are an opportunity to encompass this diversity. We actively promote personal liberty by allowing children to present Topic work however they choose.

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