



St. Mary's C. E. Primary School, Rawtenstall

**Policy for Homework
Updated October 2024
(Mr Neil Gurman)**

This policy applies to all governors, staff, pupils, parents and visitors to the school, including all contractors.

School Mission Statement

Based upon our belief of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the World, we will give all children a positive experience of Christianity and learning, whilst retaining a respect for other faiths.

We will promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils, within a caring, loving, stimulating and nurturing environment, which is firmly based upon Christian values.

All children will receive a wealth of high quality educational experiences through the positive involvement of school, home and St. Mary's Church.

Introduction

Research has shown that homework can make an important contribution to children's progress at school. At St. Mary's we value parents and carers as partners in their children's learning. Through a structured approach to homework we seek to develop a continuous routine that gives clear expectations each week. Homework at St Mary's will be set in relation to English and Mathematics skills.

The Purposes of Homework

These include:

- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding in English and Mathematics.
- Developing an effective partnership between the school and the parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school.
- Helping children progress towards independence and individual responsibility.
- Ensuring that parents/guardians have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their child.
- Exploiting resources for learning, of all kinds, at home.
- Extending school learning, for example through additional reading and encouraging pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own; preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

At St. Mary's we recognise that the purposes of homework change as the children get older.

In Key Stage 1 the key purpose is to develop a partnership with parents or carers and to actively involve them in their children's learning with homework related to Maths and English. Short activities of different kinds - games, learning spellings and number facts and reading together - provide opportunities for young children to talk about their learning and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

In Key Stage 2 homework provides an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning related to Maths and English. Children should get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not be long, to study on their own.

Regular reading is vital. Children should either read to their parents or carers, listen to them reading or, if they are fluent readers, read on their own for at least 10 minutes a day. This should be signed by a parent/carer or family member each day in the child's reading record.

Type and amount of Homework

EYFS

To concentrate on Foundation Stage activities. No set time. This will be provided on a Friday. Parents are expected to read the child's 'Wow Book' and sign it on a weekly basis.

Year 1 and 2

Daily reading for between 10 and 20 minutes.

1 hour each week which incorporates weekly spellings. Pupils will also be set English or Mathematics on a Friday. This will be alternated on a weekly basis.

Years 3,4,5,and 6

Daily reading for between 10 and 20 minutes.

A maximum of 1hr per week which incorporates the following:

The children in KS2 are will be provided with a weekly set of spellings to learn and complete associated homework. In addition to this pupils will also be set English or Mathematics, usually on a Friday. This will be alternated on a weekly basis.

NB – No extra homework will be set by the class teacher in addition to this e.g. project work.

Special Educational Needs

Tasks should:

Have a very clear focus and time guidelines

Give plenty of opportunities for the pupil to succeed

Be varied – and not purely written tasks

Be manageable for teachers.

How Homework will be planned and co-ordinated

The class teacher is responsible for setting and responding to homework, unless they delegate that responsibility to support staff.

Role of Parents and Carers

In general terms we would encourage parents to :

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework – alone or, more often for younger children, together with an adult – or help pupils attend other places where homework can be done, such as homework clubs or study support centres
- With younger children the work is designed so that adults become actively involved in the activities. Where it is a reading activity the parent may read with or, at times, to the children.
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.
- Give immediate feedback to the child on how they are doing and help them where necessary.

Feedback for pupils and parents or carers

Homework will be responded to by the class teacher in a variety of ways as is appropriate:

- By oral or written comments
- In 'good work' assemblies
- Stickers
- Display
- Sharing
- Self-marked by pupils when appropriate

Completed homework can be kept by the children. Diaries and records of reading can maintain a regular dialogue between parents and teachers.

Consequences for failing to complete homework

We expect that homework tasks should be completed on time and to an acceptable standard. Children who fail to complete tasks should expect a consequence as a result. Consequences will include:

- **The teacher will note children who regularly fail to bring homework back, without reasonable excuse.**
- **Children will be asked to complete homework at playtimes if it is not completed by the set deadlines.**
- **Reasons as to why this is happening will be sought.**
- **Parents may be contacted.**
- **Parents may be invited into school to discuss reasons.**
- **Children may be asked to redo the entire task.**
- **Children who regularly fail to complete homework tasks could be sent to the headteacher.**

Monitoring

The efficiency and effectiveness of this policy needs to be monitored and evaluated. The Key Stage Leaders will check that homework is consistently set across all classes and that the standard of homework being set is acceptable.

Parents will be consulted at Parent's Evenings in addition to day to day monitoring. The key criterion should be the extent to which this policy is contributing to the progress pupils make and to their attitude to learning.

Signature of Chair of Governors:

Date:

Signature of Headteacher:

Date:

Date of next review: October 2026