



## **St Catherine Catholic Primary School and Nursery** **Homework Policy**

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At St Catherine Catholic Primary we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

### **Aims and objectives:**

At St Catherine's we believe that homework can have many benefits for children and parents.

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some, one to one adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

### **General Expectations**

At St Catherine's we understand that with busy family lives it can be difficult to fit in the demands of homework and so we carefully plan tasks and set guidance for the time to be spent on them so as to ensure homework supports learning and does not become a burdensome activity that demoralises children and turns them off from learning. For this reason we encourage parents to read this policy carefully and understand our expectations.

- In each Key Stage there are clear guidelines about how much time children should spend on homework each day, the expectation is that children do as much as they can in this time, but are not expected to complete every task if it was too challenging to complete in the allotted time.
- Children should as far as possible be encouraged to do as much of the homework as they can independently. Parents should not complete homework for their children but instead encourage and advise.
- When reading with children, parents/carers are asked to record, at the very least, the page numbers read in the Yellow Reading Record, which can also be used to communicate with the class teacher about reading.
- Homework has within it, work of different levels to cater for the needs of all children.
- Any issues with homework being too difficult should be discussed with the class teacher as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made if necessary.
- Children are always welcome to complete extra tasks and research at home linked to class topics. Teachers will look at this work, but are under no obligation to mark it.
- Any English, Maths and RE written tasks are considered to be compulsory, as are the learning of spellings, times tables and daily or regular reading.
- Children are only set homework in term time, with the exception of Creative homework that is set over each half term. Creative homework is not compulsory but encouraged.

- In Key stage 1 and 2 teachers keep a record of the completion of compulsory homework. If not completed on a regular basis children may be called in to complete tasks at lunchtimes, this is NOT considered to be a detention under our behaviour policy.
- At times children will be set homework online using Mathletics or Purple Mash. If children do not have access to a computer at home, they will be given the opportunity during a lunchtime to complete this at school.

### **Routine**

- All homework is set on a Friday and should be handed in by the following Thursday.
- Children are provided with sheets outlining the homework for the upcoming week, these are also available on the school website.

### **EYFS**

- Formal weekly written homework is not set as part of the EYFS curriculum
- From time to time teachers may ask parents to engage with their children's learning by gathering information or photographs to support a topic such as Baptism.
- In Nursery and Reception class children are provided with reading books and parents are encouraged to read every day with their children for at least 10 minutes. Parents are also encouraged to read to their children as often as possible.
- In Reception class, children are introduced to Word Boxes. These contain short lists of key vocabulary to learn at their own speed.
- Each half term all children are invited to take part in Creative Homework. Whilst this is not compulsory children are encouraged to take part as a way to enhance their enjoyment and understand of topics being studied in school.
- Each term Reception class will be asked to complete three RE tasks linked to topics being taught.
- On a rota basis, Reception children are also given the opportunity to choose an object for class worship and write a prayer at home to share in school.

### **KS1**

- In KS1 children are not expected to spend any more than 15 minutes a day doing homework tasks.
- In Year 1 children are set one written task a week – either English, Maths or Science – to be completed in provided books or worksheets.
- In Year 2 children are set two pieces of written work – English and Maths – to be completed in provided books. These books are split into three sections a,b,c which get progressively more difficult. Children are only expected to complete as much as they can, as independently as they can in the 15 minutes, they are not expected to complete all tasks.
- In both classes children are given spellings to learn each week (Year 1 from January onwards) and to read daily to an adult or older sibling who can support them. Comprehension questions are provided to all parents and are available on the website to help parents support their children's reading.
- At the end of Year 1 and in Year 2, children are also encouraged to spend time rehearsing their times tables as directed by the class teacher.
- Each half term all children are invited to take part in Creative Homework. Whilst this is not compulsory children are encouraged to take part as a way to enhance their enjoyment and understand of topics being studied in school.
- Each term both classes will be asked to complete three RE tasks linked to topics being taught.

## KS2

- In KS2 children are not expected to spend any more than 20 minutes a day doing homework tasks, with the time spent increasing as they move from Year 3 to Year 6
- KS2 children are set two pieces of written work – English and Maths - – to be completed in provided books. These books are split into three sections a,b,c which get progressively more difficult. Children are only expected to complete as much as they can, as independently as they can in 20 mins, they are not expected to complete all tasks.
- All children are given spellings to learn each week. These are split into Must, Should, Could and Extension lists – your child’s teacher will make it clear which lists your child is expected to learn and which, if any, are optional.
- Children are encouraged to read frequently to an adult or older sibling who can support them. Comprehension questions are provided to all parents and are available on the website to help parents support their children’s reading.
- In KS2 children are also encouraged to spend time rehearsing their times tables as directed by the class teacher.
- Each half term all children are invited to take part in Creative Homework. Whilst this is not compulsory children are encouraged to take part as a way to enhance their enjoyment and understand of topics being studied in school.
- Each term children will be asked to complete three compulsory RE tasks linked to topics being taught.
- Children in Year 6, will be given homework over the Easter holidays as part of their revision for the KS2 SATs.