

St Joseph's and St Gregory's Catholic Primary School



Homework Policy 2019

At St Joseph's and St Gregory's 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. We believe that learning is at its best when in collaboration with home and therefore have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing the partnership between home and school.

Why give homework?

- ✓ It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- ✓ It encourages responsibility for learning and independent learning
- ✓ It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as reading and times tables
- ✓ It takes advantage of the home environment and resources
- ✓ It can be a great source for gathering topic information
- ✓ It can inform parents about work going on in class and give an opportunity for one-to-one adult time
- ✓ It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school homework

At our school whilst we support all of the above key principles, St Joseph's and St Gregory's is not a school at which homework dominates home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that home lives can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

Therefore, we do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on a task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice. We do foresee that as children move through the school the expectations of homework will change and children in older year groups will have an increased number of tasks and will need to spend longer completing the activities given to them.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves. Children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However, discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents to identify whether there are any barriers preventing the completion of homework.

Homework clubs are available for all children who wish to access their home learning with the support of school staff. We are happy to discuss this provision.

Our expectations

We encourage children to:

- ✓ Make their parents aware of any homework given by the teacher.
- ✓ Ask for help if it is needed.
- ✓ Complete homework to the best of their ability and maintain the same standards of presentation expected in the classroom.

We encourage parents to:

- ✓ Show a positive interest in homework; talk and ask questions.
- ✓ Help and support, but encourage independent thinking.
- ✓ Ensure children have the time and space to complete homework.
- ✓ Praise children for their efforts.

Teachers will:

- ✓ Explain the homework task and the learning purpose clearly.
- ✓ Set work at the appropriate level.
- ✓ Set deadlines if appropriate.
- ✓ Acknowledge completion of homework with a combination of praise, stickers, merits or certificates.

Learning for life

These areas of learning are essential and should be encouraged and enjoyed at home:

Independent Continuous Provision

- **Spelling** - children have spellings to learn on a weekly basis and they are often tested. Spelling is an important skill. Children have access the internet based programme Spelling Shed to practise their spellings and we encourage regular access to this at home.
- **Times Tables** – this is the most important number skill that children can learn and practise at home. Times tables are often tested in school. Once children know their times tables they will be able to understand many other mathematical concepts and calculations. Due to this children have access to the internet based programme Times Tables Rock Stars. We encourage regular access to this at home.
- **Research** - children may be asked to find out about areas of the curriculum that they are currently enjoying studying and this may involve creating a lengthier project piece that the children have spent a number of weeks working on at home.
- **Interactive Learning** – children can access a range of interactive learning, through their Purple Mash log in.

Additional Home Learning

- **Talking** – time for talking will encourage interest in learning, the conversations are endless!
- **Reading** - this may be sharing a book, reading aloud or listening to a story. We encourage this to take place daily at home.
- **Writing** – children can enjoy practising writing at home. For example they could practise writing their name or the days of the week; they could practise their handwriting or write a fabulous story!
- **Number work** - this may be counting, learning addition facts, subtraction facts, shapes, measures and playing games involving dice, cards and counters.

Through a positive homework policy we aim to encourage a successful partnership between school, parents and pupils, and support learning so that each child achieves success.