

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## Homework Policy



We are children of God: we achieve, believe and care.

Ratified on:

Headteacher: Mrs E Maher

To be Reviewed: Annually

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## Homework Policy

### Introduction

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we appreciate how important the links between home and school are, and recognise the incredibly positive impact support from home has in ensuring a good education for all of our children.

Research has shown that homework is most effective if it is:

- Meaningful – the work has purpose and supports and consolidates work that has been done in class.
- Achievable – homework should be challenging but manageable.
- Engaging – homework should be interesting and enjoyable.

This policy was written following consultation with parents, and sets out our vision for how our approach to homework fulfils these criteria.

### The purpose of homework

We believe that homework should be designed to:

- Allow parents to be engaged with and to support their children's learning.
- Allow children to share their learning with their parents.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.
- Provide teachers with the opportunity to support and extend the learning environment beyond the classroom.
- Encourage pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own.

### Homework structure

Homework takes four different forms, and will be planned by class teachers to be appropriate for their class, and where necessary for individual children. The areas of homework are:

- Home reading
- Spellings
- Maths and English tasks
- Online learning platforms – TTRS, Reading Plus, Numbots and Spag.com

### Communicating homework

Children in Key Stage 1 will be given a homework book to either complete their homework in or stick in completed homework sheets.

## Home reading

We encourage all children to read at home every day, and where possible children should try to read aloud to an adult. Reading is at the centre of the curriculum, and we aim to promote a love of reading in every child.

Parents should try to discuss their children's books and ask questions about them to ensure that there is understanding of their book as well as accurate reading.

Every child will be given a reading record book at the beginning of the school year, and a reading book to read at home from their current reading level. When they have finished their book, they can bring it back into school and it will be changed and another book sent home.

We encourage parents to make a comment in their child's reading record book when they have heard them reading aloud.

- In Reception Class and Year 1, children should be encouraged to read the same book four times over the course of a week, in order to build fluency and understanding.
- In Reception class and Key Stage 1, reading books will be matched closely to the phonics stage the children are currently working at (these books are referred to as phonetically decodable).
- In Key Stage 2, once the children have progressed to the end of the reading scheme, they may have a book of their own choosing to read at home. We would still encourage them to read some of it aloud to an adult, and for the adult to make a comment in the reading record book.

A video to give support and guidance on how to support your child to read at home can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcYp4AQkLLU>

## Spellings

In Year 2 and Key Stage 2, children will have a list of five spellings to learn each week. The spellings will be a combination of the National Curriculum spelling lists for each year group and different spelling patterns. Learning spellings is an important skill to develop children's writing.

Spellings will be shared with the children on a Monday, and a copy of the spellings will be sent home every half term. Children should learn their spellings at home during the week before they complete a spelling test in school on Friday.

## Online

Children are encouraged to access our online forums to enhance learning.

## Parental support

Parents are encouraged to support their children in their work at home, which includes:

- Ensuring children have a suitable place at home to complete their homework, which should be reasonably peaceful.
- Encouraging children to take pride in their work.

- Communicating with the class teacher if they have any questions or queries regarding homework.
- Listening to the children read regularly, talking about what they have read and making a comment in their reading record book.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring that this homework policy is efficiently and effectively implemented within their class. This will be monitored by the leadership team in order to ensure homework is contributing to overall pupil learning and progress.

### **Inclusion**

All children will have access to homework that is relevant to their current stage of learning. If necessary, printed copies of all homework materials and communication will be provided by the class teacher. If parents feel as though they need any additional support or have any questions regarding their child's homework, they can discuss this with their child's teacher.

### **Equal Opportunities**

All children are provided with equal access to homework. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or home background.