



Homework Policy

St Mark's CofE Primary School



This policy aims to bring clarity to the setting of homework at St Mark's CofE Primary School.

Why do we set homework, and how do we make it appropriate?

<i>Homework is good because...</i>	<i>..but this can be negative when...</i>	<i>... so we need to...</i>
Practices and re-enforces what is learned in school, at home	Pupils find the homework or topic too easy or too hard.	Ensure the work is at an appropriate level.
It helps parents to understand what their child is learning at school	Parents may not understand how to help, or the methods taught now are different to how they were taught when at school	Be clear about the way homework should be done, perhaps through example questions and answers.
Teaches pupils discipline, independence and self-organisation	Doing homework at home is difficult for a variety of reasons! E.g. siblings or limited space.	Help the pupils become more independent, teach 'organisation' skills, and provide support in school time when it is too difficult at home.
Research suggests it is very successful when the homework will be used in an upcoming lesson, for a purpose (known as pre-tutoring)	Some pupils don't do the homework so that lesson may be difficult. Or some do too much of the work and skip ahead of where the teacher wants them to be.	Set some homework to be used in lessons for a purpose, and be clear with what is expected.
Develop IT skills in research and other areas	Not all families have computers, or may have older pupils who take priority on the computer!	Ensure pupils have a range of homework activities, and give time for pupils to use school computers for homework.

How much homework should be set?

	Weekly Homework	Recommended Home reading	Other project work
Year 6	Maths Grammar Spellings Timestable practice	4-5 times a week, independently. 20-30 minutes sustained reading	Possible half-termly project
Year 5	Maths Grammar Spellings Timestable practice	4-5 times a week, independently 20 minutes sustained reading	Possible half-termly project
Year 4	Maths or Grammar Spellings Timestable practice	4-5 times a week, independently 15-20 minutes sustained reading	Possible half-termly project
Year 3	Maths or Grammar Spellings	4-5 times a week, independently 15-20 minutes sustained reading	Possible half-termly project

	Timestable practice		
Year 2	Fortnightly Maths Weekly Spellings	3-5 times a week, usually with an adult	Possible half-termly project
Year 1	Keywords each week	3-5 times a week, read with an adult	Possible half-termly project
Year R	Home Reading only	5 times a week, read with an adult	Possible half-termly project

* In Year R and 1, the amount of homework set may increase during the first term as pupils adjust to school life.

Other expectations for homework:

- It is done by all pupils, and that they may be asked to stay in at break times if not completed.
- Teachers will mark the work with an appropriate light touch, and pupils get it back (incorrect answers should be identified to prevent misconceptions);
- Homework will be of suitable challenge to the child, and they should be able to succeed in the task set;
- Pupils complete the work with the same high standards that are expected in school (e.g. using a ruler, best handwriting, and keeping the paperwork flat and not crumpled up);
- There is a routine to homework, as set out by the class teacher (e.g. out on a Thursday, back on the Tuesday), and this routine is clearly communicated to parents;
- Teachers explain the homework to the pupils, so that they are clear on what they need to do;
- Homework set during half terms or holiday times is at the discretion of the year group. However, homework will not be set over the Christmas holidays.
- Homework will be put into a folder or book given by the school. This is to help with pride, presentation, and completeness.

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