



*'Let Your Light Shine'*

*(Matthew 5.v16)*

# Homework Policy

**Approval Date: Autumn Term 2021**

**Review Date: Autumn Term 2023**

# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

## *'Let Your Light Shine'*

*(Matthew 5.v16)*

At St. Stephen's Church of England Primary School we are proud to be a Church School with a distinct Christian character and ethos. We promote a love of learning within a safe and secure environment, in which every child matters as a precious gift from God. We believe every child is unique, different and special.

Christian values and spirituality are at the heart of all aspects of school life. Our school's Christian ethos reflects mutual care and concern- where faith, love, hope and truth flourish. Our school is a place where children are able to establish and deepen their understanding of God through prayer and reflection in daily acts of Collective Worship and Religious Education.

We provide a creative and challenging curriculum in order to inspire and motivate our pupils. We want all our children to feel secure and happy, enabling them to reach their fullest potential. We believe that happy children learn well and we thrive on celebrating the achievements of all our pupils across all areas of learning.

We aim to create an environment where children develop the confidence to think for themselves; where pupil voice is at the heart of all decision making and where all children feel valued and respected.

Our school ethos is built on mutual tolerance and respect for all human beings, regardless of beliefs culture or race. Charity and caring for those in need is fundamental to our work in school. We are all children of God so we aim to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves.

We work in partnership with governors, families; the wider community and our local Parish Church to ensure everyone has a voice in achieving the best possible education for our children.

Ultimately we are committed to excellence for all and through a process of continual reflection and evaluation we ensure that standards are continually raised and improved.

# *'Let Your Light Shine'*

*(Matthew 5.v16)*

*Our school motto encompasses all that we are about as a school.*

*'Let your light shine'*

*The motto incorporates three fundamental elements:*

*The light of the Gospel message of Jesus*

*The light of individual talents*

*The light of learning*

## **Introduction**

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

## **Rationale for homework**

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. We also recognise that children work very hard during their time in school and that everybody needs to relax at the end of a busy day. It is not our intention to overburden children with additional work. We recognise too that homework takes place during a pupil's own time and may conflict with other activities. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

## **What is the purpose of homework?**

Homework has several purposes and may vary according to the age of the child and the task in hand. At St Stephen's CE Primary School it is our intention during the course of a child's time with us is to provide opportunities to:

- practice and consolidate skills introduced in class
- prepare for future class work
- develop skills using a range of learning resources e.g. library, information books and internet
- allow individuals the opportunity to practice planning and organising their time
- develop good habits and self-discipline which will prepare them for their next phase of education and beyond.
- develop personal responsibility for independent learning
- communicate with parents about their child
- allow parents to become involved in their child's learning
- strengthen links between home and school

## What can I expect for my child?

### **Reading**

For Reception and Key Stage 1 children, reading aloud regularly and often is an important part of early reading development. We ask that the children should read at least five times a week. This may involve reading to, or discussing and sharing a book with, your child. We ask that Key Stage 2 children read at least five times a week. Older children may read independently, but parents can be involved by asking about the book, who the characters are, whether your child is enjoying it etc. As a rough guide, children in Reception and Key Stage One can be expected to read for between 5 and 15 minutes each evening. In Key Stage Two, children should read for at least 15 minutes each evening.

School reading books are not sent home during the holidays as this is the time teachers carry out an audit of the stock, check for quality and discard old and tatty books, complete the end of half term reading records, and plan reading experiences for the next half term. However, we strongly recommend that children continue to read during the holidays and encourage them to join the local library. Children can broaden their experience by reading a whole range of other reading materials, e.g. non-fiction books, recipes, magazines, TV listings, computer programs, signs, instructions for games, captions etc., so they begin to understand that reading is an important and necessary skill in everyday life.

### **Other tasks**

The type of homework, the frequency and time it takes to complete will vary depending on the task and the age of the child. No single activity, in addition to reading, spellings and tables should take longer than 15 minutes in Reception and Key Stage One; 20 minutes in Years 3 and 4 or 30 minutes in Years 5 and 6 (From Spring Term in Year 6 homework might exceed 30 minutes as revision will be incorporated into homework). Some work, such as spellings and multiplication tables, are best learnt by practicing them 'little and often' for a few minutes each night. It is envisaged that children will take increasing responsibility for completing their work independently as they progress through the school. Generally, children will not be expected to finish off class work at home although there may be occasions where this is necessary in order to move the pace of learning along.

## Communication between home and school

It is vital that both parents and children are provided with detailed information about a homework task. If that information is not provided on the worksheet then additional information will be supplied by the teacher. Information regarding the distribution and collection of homework is provided on Termly Class Newsletters.

Below is a guide to the variety of homework tasks which may be given to children in each year group during the year. Some are regular, weekly tasks but others will only be given occasionally, depending on the demands of the curriculum. Homework will not be given during school holidays except Year 6 when Easter Revision will be provided.

### Reception

Sharing books and reading activities e.g. word cards, reading aloud  
Sound books  
Weekly activities linked to the topics taught.

### Year One

Reading aloud to or with an adult and discussing books  
Weekly spellings linked to phonics work or high frequency words  
A Maths/Literacy, or Topic task  
Occasional topic work/research

### Year Two

Reading independently or aloud to/with an adult  
Weekly spellings  
A Maths, Literacy or Topic task  
Occasional topic work/research

### Year Three

Reading and discussing the book with an adult  
Weekly spellings and multiplication tables  
Weekly Maths linked to Maths in the classroom  
Half termly projects spread over more than one week.

### Year Four

Reading and discussing the book with an adult  
Weekly spellings and multiplication tables  
Weekly Maths linked to Maths in the classroom  
Half termly projects spread over more than one week.

### Year Five

Reading and discussing the book with an adult  
Weekly spellings and multiplication tables  
Weekly Maths linked to Maths in the classroom  
Half termly projects spread over more than one week.

### Year Six

Reading and discussing the book with an adult  
Weekly spellings and multiplication tables  
Weekly Maths linked to Maths in the classroom  
Half termly projects spread over more than one week.  
SATs revision (Usually from Spring Term)

## Use of ICT

A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference

material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed.

However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning.

We discourage children from bringing computer disks or memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher might suggest that a child's work is e-mailed to the teacher at school.

## What will teachers do?

- Ensure parents are provided information on the homework task.
- discuss any problems with the child (or parent, if appropriate) as they arise
- keep to agreed days and times for setting and collecting work
- allow children at least 3 days to complete work before handing it in
- give work which allows children to reinforce, improve or extend learning
- provide tasks which are matched to a child's ability
- vary the tasks to make the work more stimulating and enjoyable
- explain clearly the purpose of the task and how to complete it
- give children constructive feedback regarding the quality and attainment of completed tasks
- ensure consistency within the class
- encourage all children through praise and recognition of individual efforts

## How can parents help?

- support the homework policy by working in partnership with your child and his/her teacher
- ensure work is received from/returned to school
- get your child settled in a suitable place to work away from distractions and at an appropriate time of day
- provide your child with pencils, rulers, rubbers etc.

- encourage your child to complete the work neatly, to the best of his/her ability
- oversee work and check that it is completed (but don't do it for them!)
- listen to spellings/tables
- read instructions to your child where necessary
- encourage your child to use the public library and ICT (if available)

### **What can children do to help themselves?**

- remember to take the work home and bring it back on time
- ensure you know what to do before you take the work home - and ask your teacher for help if you don't know what to do
- make your parents aware you have homework
- present your work as neatly as possible
- attempt the work first before asking for help at home
- take responsibility for your own work - get yourself organised
- find somewhere away from distractions to do your work - not in front of the TV
- look after your work - don't let your pets or younger brothers and sisters get hold of it!
- use the public library and computer (with supervision)

### **Further Information**

Children who complete their homework to a good standard will be praised and rewarded as part of the school and classes reward systems.

Children who do not complete work on time or to a reasonable standard will be offered the opportunity to do it the next night. If a child repeatedly fails to complete work then they may be asked to complete it during break time. If this continues then a consultation between the parents and teacher will be arranged to discuss any problems. If problems continue to persist they should be referred to the head teacher for further discussion.

Our homework policy will be reviewed every two years and amended if necessary.