

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
HOMEWORK POLICY

Through Jesus we achieve our very best.

1. Purpose of this policy.

- To develop an effective partnership between home and school and to enable parents and carers to be actively involved in their child's learning.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and mathematics and extend school learning.
- To develop independent learning in children and prepare them for expectations at secondary school.

2. Aims of the policy

- For there to be consistent practice across the school with everyone clear about expectations.
- For homework to support progression in learning and to be progressive in content across the school.
- For parents to be partners in their children's learning.
- For all to have high expectations of pupils completing their homework and handing in on time.
- To ensure a sensible amount of homework is set so that children have time to take part in other after school activities.
- To provide sources of support for parents to aid them in helping their children at home.
- To provide for flexibility within the policy to take into account individual circumstances and issues in school, which may effect provision.
- To encourage a wide range of resources are used for homework (including ICT) and for a wide range of communication sources to be available to families for information and support.

3. Types of homework

All children are expected to read everyday at home.

- In Reception & KS1 homework will mainly cover the development of reading. This may include: books without words for parents to talk about with their child, prompt cards to enable parents to interact with the book with their child, key words, books for parents to read to their child and phonics activities. Year 2 will also have a grammar or sentence task to complete. Number facts homework and activities will also be incorporated. In year 1 and year 2 children will also bring home a list of spelling to be learned each week.
- In KS2 homework will mainly cover English and mathematics and will be directly linked to the work the children have been doing in class. This will include weekly spellings. Other homework may include: finding out information, reading in preparation for lessons, preparing oral presentations and written assignments. Where a class is preparing for a Mass or assembly, their homework for that week/time may be learning lines/readings in preparation.
- Each class will also be given a practical project linked to the thematic or RE curriculum at least once a year.
- Teachers will use their discretion to vary this policy in line with individual families' circumstances.
- Children may not receive homework during weeks where staff have other more pressing priorities i.e., parent's evening.

4. The role of parents

- Provide somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets.

- Provide encouragement and support to children when they require it.
- Support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed.
- Be actively involved in the homework of younger children in particular.
- Sign and date their child's reading diary.

5. Special Educational Needs

- Staff are aware that children with special educational needs will need homework which is specific to their needs and enables them to succeed. Wherever possible homework will therefore be directly linked to their specific needs.
- Children with special educational needs will be expected to read every day.
- Other homework will be at the discretion of the teacher with the understanding that SEN homework takes priority.

6. Expectations of pupils

- To complete homework and hand in on time
- To complete their homework to the best of their ability, taking pride in the presentation and content.
- Be organised so that the necessary books and equipment are not left in school or at home.

7. Homework timetable and time allocations

- Children will have at least 3 nights to complete a piece of homework
- Homework will always be set on a Friday to be handed in the following Tuesday.

The following is a guide to the amount of time children might be expected to spend on homework activities:

Year Group	Homework Activity
Reception	10 minutes per night; reading (both with and to children) and learning Phonics & common exception words.
Year 1	10 - 15 minutes reading (both with and to children) per night focussing on comprehension. 10 minutes for spellings. 10 minutes Maths including number facts.
Year 2	10 - 15 minutes reading (both with and to children) per night focussing on comprehension. 10 minutes for spellings. 10 minutes Maths including times tables.
Year 3	20 minutes reading (both with and to children) per night. Spellings each week Maths and English each Friday.
Year 4	20 minutes reading (both with and to children) per night. Spellings each week Maths and English each Friday.
Year 5	20 minutes reading (both with and to children) per night. Spellings each week Maths and English each Friday.
Year 6	20 minutes reading (both with and to children) per night. Spellings each week Maths and English each Friday. Additional homework may be set ranging more widely over the curriculum. In the Spring term revision for SATs will form the main part of homework.

8. Feedback for pupils, parents and carers

- All pupils' work needs to be acknowledged by the teacher promptly, at the very least by a tick, a sticker or stamp.
- If homework is handed in on a Tuesday it should be returned marked on Friday.
- Staff will continue to provide opportunities for parents to learn about approaches to teaching literacy and numeracy by holding workshops and other in school activities.
- School will also make resources available to parents on the school website and in hard copy in order for them to support their children as effectively as possible.

9. Suggestions for other activities that parents and children can do together to enrich a child's learning

Playing board games

Cooking a meal together

Going to the park

Looking at the night sky

Explaining how things work

Visiting the library

Memorising a poem

Sharing a story

Researching information for the theme the children are covering (this can be found on the termly study plan).

This homework policy will be reviewed every three years.