

# St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

## Homework Policy



Policy written and agreed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. P.', is written over a horizontal line.

Ratified by Full Governing Body:

September 2023

To be reviewed:

September 2024

## 1. Introduction

At St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School, we believe that homework is an integral part of a child's education and that our children can benefit from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners and we believe that homework is one of the ways in which children can acquire this skill as well as being essential preparation for secondary school and the wider world. The school's Catholic ethos strives to create a learning environment where every child is encouraged and enabled to develop to their full and unique potential as human beings, made in the image and likeness of God. We are committed to encouraging the child to develop their own work ethic and ethos beyond the environment of the school as well as ensuring an effective dialogue between home and school.

## 2. The aims and objectives of homework are:

- To help pupils to make progress in their academic and social development;
- To help pupils develop the skills and discipline of an independent learner;
- To promote retrieval practice so that children can commit their learning into their long term memory;
- To enthuse children about their learning;
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To inform parents about what their child is learning in school;
- To consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- To help children develop positive work habits for the future;
- To pre-tutor aspects of the curriculum so that children arrive at the lesson with a foundation for learning;
- To enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth.

## 3. Approach to homework at St Nicholas:

- Consistency throughout the school;
- Progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- The needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- Parents have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupil;
- Quality learning experience offered to all pupils;
- Opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- Opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- Children develop long term strategies for future, lifelong needs;
- Children are prepared for transition to secondary school and into the wider world.

## 4. The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. The school recognises that younger children may need more help with tasks set but homework should always be the child's own work. Research has shown that children who are supported at home with their learning make significantly better progress than their peers. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite parents to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with an environment that allows children to do their best; it is helpful for your child to develop a homework routine that suits their other commitments.

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher by emailing: [enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@stnicholassutton.org.uk).

## 5. The role of the teacher

Each teacher at St Nicholas will:

- Set meaningful tasks that are directly linked to children's learning in the classroom;
- Set tasks that are within the capability of the children to complete independently;
- Ensure that the setting of homework is consistent and regular;
- Give children a reasonable time for homework completion;
- Give timely feedback to children on their homework tasks;
- Communicate homework expectations through the termly class newsletter;
- Differentiate homework tasks based on the needs of the child;
- Provide children with alternative homework submission options where internet connection or access to an electronic device is an issue;
- Provide children with instructions and necessary log on information to complete homework using the online platforms;
- Contact parents to discuss any homework issues.

## 6. The role of the child

Children attending St Nicholas agree to the following:

- Try their best in all homework tasks;
- Ensure that these are completed on time;
- Ask for further clarification from their teacher when needed;
- Show greater levels of independence when completing homework as they get older;
- Discuss any problems regarding homework with their teacher prior to the hand in date (including log in problems).

## 7. Types of homework

Children in Years 2 and 6 may be given additional SATs revision homework. Children in Year 1 may be given additional homework to prepare them for the Phonics Screening Check (PSC). Children in Year 4 may be given additional homework to prepare them for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC).

Regardless of their age or level of development, **sharing a book with and reading to your child is an integral part of their learning**. This is particularly important whilst your child receives Phonics instruction as they are not yet able to read by themselves. Reading to your child could be re-reading a favourite story or, as they get older, exposing them to a more challenging text that they are not yet able to access independently.

### **EYFS (Reception):**

- Daily or at least 3x per week reading of Read, Write Inc. phonics story book - parents to sign the diary.
- Additional activities may include: red words, green words, handwriting, flashcards and early maths.
- After October half term, children will receive online tasks via Purple Mash to complement their classroom learning.

### **Year 1:**

- Daily or at least 3x per week reading of Read, Write Inc. phonics story book - parents to sign the diary.
- Additional activities may include: red words, green words, handwriting, flashcards.
- Weekly Maths task available on My Maths.

### **Years 2 (children who are not taking part in our Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme):**

- Weekly reading task on Purple Mash to include:
  - Reading a text set by the teacher
  - Completing a comprehension task via 2Write pad or PDF annotator
- Daily reading for pleasure (minimum 15 minutes)
  - Signature and date in the reading record at least 3x per week
  - Leaf for the reading tree when a book has been completed

- Weekly spellings
  - List to practice each Friday
  - Optional tasks will be uploaded to Purple Mash
- Weekly Maths task available on My Maths.

**Years 3-6 (children who are not taking part in our Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme):**

- Weekly reading task on Purple Mash to include:
  - Reading a text set by the teacher
  - Completing a comprehension task via 2Write pad or PDF annotator
- Daily reading for pleasure (minimum 15 minutes)
  - Signature and date in the reading record at least 3x per week
  - Leaf for the reading tree when a book has been completed
- Weekly spellings
  - List to practice each Friday
  - Optional tasks will be uploaded to Purple Mash
- Weekly Maths task available on My Maths.
- 1 topic based task each year (Science, History or Geography). This could be a research task prior to the children learning about the topic in school or a complementary task.
- Weekly Times Tables Rock Stars (20 minutes)

*NB: For children in Years 2-6 that are continuing to receive Phonics instruction, please refer to the homework expectations in Year 1. When they no longer receive Phonics instruction, please refer to the homework expectations for their year group.*

8. Inclusion

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has additional needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

9. Completion of homework

The school views homework as part of the curriculum so, if it is not done, children may have to stay in at break time to complete it. Parents are expected to support this. If homework is not given in on a regular basis, parents are invited to discuss this with the class teacher.

10. Monitoring

The Senior Leadership Team will regularly review the Policy and Guidelines on behalf of the Governing Body, alongside the whole staff team, and will monitor the quality of homework provision through planning and work scrutiny.

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