



# ST. EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Through God's Grace We Grow and Learn*

## Homework Policy

This policy is a statement of how homework is organised throughout the school from the Foundation stage to Year 6.

It is guided by the DFES document, "Homework: Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools."

The policy was brought about through consultation with the teaching staff of the school, a draft copy then being sent to parents for consultation.

### Introduction:

This policy gives a broad description of the homework that is to take place in each year group. Parents are informed, through a termly curriculum letter, the learning that is to take place in the core subjects; the letter also contains a statement of the homework expected in each class.

The Government guidelines suggest that a sensible programme of homework activities for children in KS1 should be designed to take about an hour per week. At KS2 these activities should gradually increase so children in years 3 and 4 should do about an hour and a half per week and children in years 5 and 6 around two and half hours a week. (This time may not include reading done at home).

These times are general recommendations; there may be times when children will do less or more but teachers will usually aim to set homework consistent with these times.

We appreciate that many children engage in after school clubs and activities and therefore any homework given (other than reading and very short pieces) will not be expected in for the following day; children will have several days in which to complete it.

The marking of homework is completed outside the formal school day as primary teachers do not have marking periods on the timetable; this means there may be times when homework is not marked in detail but all homework will be acknowledged and appreciated by the person who has set it.

### The Purpose of Homework:

Homework is given to:

- encourage a positive partnership between home and school that centres on the child's learning
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly in English and Maths
- extend school learning through additional reading and project work
- encourage independent learning
- encourage confidence and self-discipline to study alone in preparation for the requirements of secondary school

## **The Homework Given:**

### **Class F:**

#### **Year F:**

All pupils will have a "Home/School Reading Record" which they will be given once the teacher feels they are ready to use it. It will be used to provide a communication between home and school, particularly with regard to the Reading Books which are brought home on a regular basis for parents to share.

Pupils are asked to read/share books with their parents daily and parents are asked to record information such as the date, amount read and any difficulties encountered. Parents are also asked to sign/initial the Home/School Reading Record whenever a parent has read with a child. Children will be given daily phonic sheets for practice.

They may be given a menu of possible homework over some holidays and they have access to Athletics as an optional activity.

### **Class One and Two:**

#### **Years 1 and 2:**

Class 1 and 2 also have a Home/School Reading Record (see above) and are asked to read/share a book every day at home.

Class 1 are given weekly spellings to learn and a half-termly Spelling Bee list to learn also. A phonic activity is given out to those on Read, Write while maths homework is given out weekly.

Class 2 are given weekly spellings to learn plus a half-termly Spelling Bee list. They receive maths and SPaG homework weekly.

### **Class Three**

#### **Years 3:**

Pupils have a homework book where instructions will be written and dated. Pupils will record when homework is to be returned and will often complete the homework in the book.

Children are expected to read every day for a recommended time of at least 15 minutes. They are given weekly spellings to learn and a half-termly Spelling Bee list. Pupils will be given a weekly Maths and SPaG activity to complete.

At times pupils may be asked to conduct some simple research or complete a project at home. They may also be asked to complete some reading comprehensions on some occasions.

### **Class Four**

#### **Years 4 and 5:**

Pupils have a homework book where instructions will be written and dated. Pupils will record when homework is to be returned and will often complete the homework in the book.

Children are expected to read every day for a recommended time of at least 15-20 minutes. They are given weekly spellings to learn and a half-termly Spelling Bee list. Weekly Maths and SPaG homework is given out and a menu of possible homework may be given for other topics covered in the curriculum.

At times pupils may be asked to conduct simple research or complete a project at home.

## **Class Five:**

### **Years 5 and 6:**

Pupils have homework books where homework will be written, explained and returned to them.

Children are expected to read every day for a recommended time of at least 20-30 minutes. Weekly spellings are given out to learn plus a half-termly Spelling Bee list. Pupils will be given a weekly Maths and SPaG activity to complete.

At times pupils may be asked to carry out research or complete a project at home. They may be given a menu of possible homework to choose from and may at times have something to complete in another subject.

Pupils in Year 6 are given revision books and activities to complete from January onwards.

*In addition children may be asked to complete unfinished classroom work at home. This would not occur where children have been given insufficient time to complete it in class or where a child has not finished due to a lack of understanding of the work.*

## **The Role of Parents and Carers:**

Parents/Carers can support their child's homework by:

- providing time and a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their work, alone or with an adult
- making it clear to their child that they value the homework set and support the school
- encouraging and praising children when they have completed their homework
- helping to ensure that homework is returned to school as requested (please let us know if the homework expected is not coming home as children may sometimes leave it in drawers etc at school)
- commenting as appropriate in their homework books
- sending a note in (in the homework book or separately) to let the teacher know if the child found the homework too hard or if they were unable to complete it on time due to other commitments on certain evenings or due to being unwell

It is not intended that homework be a negative experience for children or that they should spend too much time on any one day completing homework.

Parents' co-operation and support with homework helps to make it a successful and happy experience for children and the staff at St. Edward's very much appreciate this support.

## **Uncompleted Homework:**

Where children have not completed homework for genuine reasons (such as those listed in the last bullet point above) they will not be sanctioned. When a child does not have their homework in for the deadline, they will always be given an extension in the first instance. If they still fail to complete their homework, they will then be asked to complete it a break time (no child will ever spend all their breaks in a day doing homework).

Where a child has found the homework too hard, the teacher will go through it with them and help them - this cannot be done during lesson time, so will also happen at a break time but is in this instance to support the child's learning and is not a sanction.

Where a child consistently fails to produce their homework, the teacher will recognise that this may not be the child's fault (they may not have space and time to complete it) and they will contact parents about the homework (a child will not continue to be kept in to complete homework until the teacher has established with the parent if there is an issue preventing its completion).

### **Review of Policy:**

This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier at the request of the Headteacher or other staff.