St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

Policy produced by the school

Adopted by St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Academic year 2026/27
Review date- Academic year 2027/28

Homework, along with school lunches, toilets and uniform is one of the most controversial and heavily debated topics in school life. Parent questionnaires indicate in most schools that parents are very divided in terms of what constitutes too much homework and too little. In most schools there are some parents who think that there should be no homework at all and some who want homework and a report from the teacher every day!
At our school we hope to find a happy medium in this area.

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore 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. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework can play a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school enrichment opportunities that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Aims and objectives

- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning from school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Amount of homework

We gradually increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move up through the school, as appropriate for their age.

How is homework organised?

Reception, Year 1, Year 2
Homework is set via paper-based methods on Fridays and submitted by the following Wednesday. This affords some flexibility for parents and enables parents to help their child to complete homework over the weekend.

Year 3, Year 4, Year 5
Homework is set through Google Classroom on Fridays and submitted by the following Wednesday. This affords some flexibility for parents and enables parents to help their child to complete homework over the weekend. Online learning platforms are common in most schools. It is an important part of the Computing curriculum for children to be well-practised in using Google Classroom.

Year 6
Homework is sent home more regularly and may be daily, as the teacher thinks is appropriate, to be returned the following day. Homework is set through a mixture of paper-based methods and Google Classroom.

Teachers, pupils and parents need to maintain high expectations for homework at the school. This means that homework is always completed on time and to a high standard of content and presentation. Homework that is completed inappropriately will be returned to the child to be finished properly.

All homework needs to be matched carefully to the individual needs of the children. Homework should arrive at home and be returned to school in a book bag.

Marking homework

All homework that is returned to school is checked. Some homework, such as practising spelling words will not require marking but children will be tested in a weekly spelling quiz. Paper homework is marked and returned to pupils in their homework book when the next week's homework is set. Homework is marked through Google Classroom by highlighting correct answers in yellow. Marked homework is returned to pupils through Google Classroom and the work can be viewed again by pupils and parents at home.

Pupils with special educational needs

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 special needs, we adapt the task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

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. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a quiet working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing. If parents have any

concerns or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Monitoring and review of homework

Completion of homework records are kept by the class teacher. Senior leaders monitor homework provision regularly.

Homework in each year group:

Reception:
In reading, children are given two or three decodable books a week at their reading ability to take home to read with their parents plus a book to share. A sharing book may not be a book that the child can read independently but they have chosen this to share with an adult. We give guidance to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child.
In English homework, children are expected to work on a weekly spelling, letter formation or vocabulary activity with an adult.
In maths, children are given a weekly maths activity to complete.

Year 1
In reading, children are given two or three decodable books a week at their reading ability to take home to read aloud to their parents daily plus a book to share. A sharing book may not be a book that the child can read independently but they have chosen this to share with an adult. We give guidance to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child.
In spelling, children are expected to learn the spellings of up to 10 words.
English - Children practice grammar and punctuation they have learnt in school.
Maths - Children practice maths they have learnt in school.
Numbots - This is an online addition and subtraction facts programme with built in mini-assessments. Children log in and work at their own level, moving up through the levels as they progress.
Children also complete a half-termly piece of RE homework.

Year 2
In reading, children are given two or three books a week at their reading level to take home to read aloud to their parents daily plus a book to share. A sharing book may not be a book that the child can read independently but they have chosen this to share with an adult. We give guidance to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child.
In spelling, children are expected to learn the spellings of up to 10 words.
English - Children practice grammar and punctuation they have learnt in school.
Maths - Children practice maths they have learnt in school.
Times Tables Rockstars - This is an online multiplication tables programme with built in mini assessments. Children log in and work at their own level, moving up through the levels as they progress.
Children also complete a half termly piece of RE homework.

Year 3
In reading, children are given two or three books a week at their reading level to take home to read to their parents daily plus a book to share. A sharing book may not be a book that the child can read independently but they have chosen this to share with an adult.
In spelling, children are expected to learn the spellings of up to 10 words.
English - Children practice grammar and punctuation they have learnt in school.
Maths - Children practice maths they have learnt in school.
Times Tables Rockstars - This is an online multiplication tables programme with built in mini assessments. Children log in and work at their own level, moving up through the levels as they progress.
Knowledge Organisers-Children should Look/Cover/Write/Check sections of their Knowledge Organiser each week until they know it by heart.
Children also complete a half termly piece of RE homework.

Year 4
In reading, children are given two books a week at their reading level to take home to read to their parents daily plus a book to share. A sharing book may not be a book that the child can read independently but they have chosen this to share with an adult.
In spelling, children are expected to learn the spellings of up to 10 words.
English - Children practice grammar and punctuation they have learnt in school.
Maths - Children practice maths they have learnt in school.
Times Tables Rockstars- This is an online multiplication tables programme with built in mini assessments. Children log in and work at their own level, moving up through the levels as they progress.
Knowledge Organisers-Children should Look/Cover/Write/Check sections of their Knowledge Organiser each week until they know it by heart.
Children also complete a half termly piece of RE homework.

Year 5
In reading, children bring home ability-appropriate novels to read independently and are expected to read for a minimum of 30 minutes per day plus a book to share. A sharing book may not be a book that the child can read independently but they have chosen this to share with an adult.
In spelling, children are expected to learn the spellings of up to 10 words.
English - Children practice grammar and punctuation they have learnt in school.
Maths - Children practice maths they have learnt in school.
Times Tables Rockstars- This is an online multiplication tables programme with built in mini assessments. Children log in and work at their own level, moving up through the levels as they progress.
Knowledge Organisers-Children should Look/Cover/Write/Check sections of their Knowledge Organiser each week until they know it by heart.
Children also complete a half termly piece of RE homework.

Year 6
In reading, children bring home ability-appropriate novels to read independently and are expected to read for a minimum of 30 minutes per day plus a book to share. A sharing book may not be a book that the child can read independently but they have chosen this to share with an adult.
Children extend the learning that they have been doing that day through what may be daily homework as the teacher thinks is appropriate.
In spelling, children are expected to learn the spellings of up to 10 words.

Times Tables Rockstars- This is an online multiplication tables programme with built in mini assessments. Children log in and work at their own level, moving up through the levels as they progress.
Knowledge Organisers-Children should Look/Cover/Write/Check sections of their Knowledge Organiser each week until they know it by heart.
Children also complete a half termly piece of RE homework.

In addition…

Each term, parents are given curriculum information guidance so that they can support their children in learning related to all subjects. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in lessons. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the local library and the internet.

Holiday Homework Year 1 to Year 5

Christmas holidays – The usual weekly homework is set, including reading books.

Easter holidays - The usual weekly homework is set, including reading books.

Summer holidays - A 'craft' activity related to something that they will be learning about the following term will be set as a summer holiday project. Parents are encouraged to help their child keep their skills sharp by practising number and times tables facts on the Numbots and Times Tables Rockstars websites.

Holiday Homework Year 6

Christmas holidays and Easter holidays – The teacher will set homework for the break that will help children to continue to practice what they have been learning in school and keep their skills sharp.