



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
Christian Living and Growing
Homework Policy

Approved by the Governing Body

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School we recognise the vital role parents play in the education of their children. We strongly believe in the value of home-school partnership, of which our homework policy is an important element. By working together we can extend and enhance the learning opportunities of our children. At Holy Cross School we will encourage good homework habits from an early age and establish a continuity that prepares them for Secondary education.

AIMS

- . Continue to further develop our partnership between school and parents by providing opportunities for pupils, parents and the school to work together
- . raise standards, particularly in mathematics and literacy by consolidating and reinforcing skills
- . encourage our children to develop the skills, confidence and motivation to study independently and prepare them for the next stage of their education
- . develop and sustain the involvement of parents/guardians in the management of pupils' learning and keep them informed about the work pupils are doing.

The purpose of homework changes as a child gets older.

For children in Key Stage One our main purpose is to develop a good partnership with parents and to involve them actively in their learning.

As a child gets older, the main purpose will increasingly become the opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning, which they will need to continue lifelong learning.

ENTITLEMENT

All pupils should be entitled to:

- . homework which is appropriate to their current work and is relevant to their needs
- . receive appropriate feedback, praise and encouragement
- . have their achievements recognised and celebrated.

All parents are entitled to:

- . be informed of this policy and the reasons for providing homework
- . an update each term on school website to inform them about the main topics and units of work being covered. This information is also displayed on classroom windows
- . a termly R.E newsletter informing parents of the work being covered along with suggestions for follow up work and family activities
- . feedback where it is appropriate.

All teaching staff are entitled to:

- . co-operation from parents to ensure that homework is completed at home with appropriate support for pupils
- . receive homework from pupils which is well presented
- . a homework policy which is manageable.

AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

The precise amount of time spent on homework is not as important as the quality of the task that has been set and the quality of the response from each pupil.

We are looking for the involvement of parents in joint activities especially with our younger children and quality time to discuss tasks and outcomes with our older children.

A regular pattern of homework is important for literacy and numeracy and it helps pupils, parents and teachers if there is a familiar routine.

As a broad guideline we recommend the following:

Reception:

Reading/language

Ten minutes (each day).

Numeracy

When opportunities present themselves.

Year 1 and 2:

Reading/language
Numeracy

Fifteen minutes (each day).
When opportunities present themselves.

Year 3 and 4:

Reading/language
Numeracy

Twenty minutes (each day).
Twice weekly.
Linked to topic units or mental maths.

Year 5 and 6

Reading/language
Numeracy

Twenty minutes (each day).
Linked to topic units or mental maths

Key Stage Two classes will invite pupils to undertake research on History or Geography topics based on the unit of work being taught. Pupils will be invited to collate their information and present their findings to the rest of the class at the completion of a unit of work. Pupils taking up this challenge will have their efforts recognised during our celebration assembly.

Special Educational Needs

Children with learning difficulties may be given special tasks separate from the homework set for other children, although it is important that they should do as much in common with the other children as possible. These homework activities will need close co-ordination between the class teacher, special needs co-ordinator and parents. It is important that any tasks are varied, have a clear focus, a time guideline and are achievable.

More Able Children

Extension and enrichment programmes will be prepared for children who have strengths in specific areas.

Role of the school

To -

- monitor the effectiveness of the homework policy each year;
- support parents with the newer methods of teaching in Numeracy by

offering parent meetings and to put into context the development of Literacy and Numeracy skills from Reception through to Year Six;

- carry out an audit of need and discuss the possibility of setting up homework clubs;
- provide extra support for Year Six children in term 5 relating to SATs.

Role of the class teacher

To -

- Plan homework as an integral part of curriculum planning and indicate tasks on short term planning;
- inform pupils and parents of homework timetables through half term curriculum newsletter;
- match homework, as far as possible, to the ability of the children;
- use a variety of approaches so that homework tasks are varied and enable children to draw upon a range of resources that are available outside of school, in particular adults;
- provide feedback which encourages pupils to regularly complete tasks

Feedback should be appropriate to the task e.g.

- pupils reporting what they have found out;
- individual comment from the teacher verbal or written;
- marking of the task within an acceptable timeframe;
- teacher supporting pupil self marking;
- reading diary entry written by pupils or parents;
- recognising homework achievement through assemblies and P.E.P awards.

Role of the parent

In general, wherever possible, parents and carers should:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place for doing homework;
- make it clear to children that they think homework is important and support the school in explaining how it can help children make progress;
- give praise and encouragement for the completion of homework;
- give support and help but don't do the work for the children;
- liaise with the class teacher if unsure about a piece of homework or the method of doing it;

- support children in completing tasks and return work in a tidy presentable state;
- be aware of the supporting termly curriculum Newsletter.

Homework will take a variety of forms such as:

Home Reading Book

Key Stage One pupils will be provided with a suitable school reading book, which can be taken home to read alone or with a parent or other adult person. A record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to or read to their child.

Pupils in Key Stage Two will be expected to take **responsibility** for changing their own reading books as necessary.

Spellings

Spellings will be given to each child to learn using the Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check method. Some spellings may be differentiated by pupil ability, others may be key words from topics. Increasingly, the vocabulary (spelling and meaning) for the science programme of study will be introduced.

Numeracy

Homework will be provided for pupils to consolidate or revise particular mathematical skills. Pupils may be required to learn key facts for example, helpful rhymes, number bonds or tables. Reference will be made to the parent maths booklet where shared learning activities are listed. Individual targets may form part of the homework. These are set termly and reviewed through the half term key objectives tests.

Topic Work

Pupils will be given the opportunity to research topics they are studying in class. This research could be sourced from the local library, the internet or from family members.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to feed back what they have discovered to

the whole class. Teachers may challenge pupils to undertake the completion of their own topic over a half term or term. This work will be shared with the whole school through our celebration assemblies.

Other Activities

Handwriting Practice
Preparing questions
Writing tasks
Puzzles/games
Learning songs or scripts for plays
Physical activities
Investigations
Completing classroom activities.

Monitoring

The Senior Management Team will oversee the setting of homework by monitoring planning sheets where homework tasks will be highlighted. Through pupils' work and through discussions with colleagues, pupils and parents.

The Governing Body will be informed as to the success of our homework policy through the Headteachers report to Governors.

Evaluation

The effectiveness of our homework policy will be judged by the number of pupils' returning homework, improved levels of attainment and by the number of pupils meeting their individual targets.

Signed: *Andy Davenport*
Chair of Policy Committee

Approved March 2011
To be reviewed March 2013