



St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School Homework Policy

This Homework Policy reflects St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School's Christian ethos and mission statement. It was written with our Christian values of Perseverance and Responsibility in mind.

St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School recognises the importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers to support children's learning.

Aims

The aims of our Homework Policy are to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for independent learning.
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently
- Extend learning opportunities for more able pupils by enabling them to take ownership over their learning.
- Prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

Recommended Time Allocation

Some years ago the Government's recommended time allocation, was set out *Homework: Guidelines for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools*. Our time allocations are based on that non - statutory guidance as follows;

- Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) - 1 hour per week
- Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) - 1.5 hours per week
- Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) - 30 minutes per day

There may be occasions when some homework tasks are more challenging than usual as homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment.

However, should parents have any concerns regarding the set homework, they should contact their child's class teacher. Likewise, should the class teacher have concerns regarding the non-completion of homework tasks, parents will be contacted. Normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spelling and times tables.

We acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

Homework tasks can cover a range of activities. The following list gives some examples:

- reading with a parent
- a family visit to a local museum
- finishing off work from the class
- exploring spelling patterns,
- completing a drawing/design which does not need any more class time devoted to it,
- using notes or a simple framework of ideas to produce a piece of work,
- giving the child(ren) more practice in a process or method learned in class,
- a piece of research – “what can you find out about?”,
- an activity – “make a chart of”,
- an observation – “keep a record over a few days of”,
- a pupil may decide to pursue further an interest from a study theme, by using books or other sources at home; visiting a library; using a computer; making a model or diagram.
- undertaking individual research for a project at the library
- learning number facts (e.g.number bonds and multiplication tables)
- literacy activities both written and verbal
- being an active member of a sports club or youth organisation

It can be seen from this list that homework can be a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be carried out at home, but teachers are also pleased to learn about children’s success in other aspects of their lives and will seek to recognise this in school.

The role of the class teacher

When homework is set, the class teacher will ensure that:

- It is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom.
- The task is reasonable, made clear to children and matched to their abilities (differentiated), especially for those pupils with special educational needs.
- In Key Stage 2 it is supported by homework diary in which children and parents can record any problems encountered.
- Time scales for completion and submission are explicit.
- Work is acknowledged as swiftly as possible (with a signature, sticker and/or comment).
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly and discussed with the class teacher at the earliest opportunity.
- Regular completion of homework to a high standard is recognised and celebrated.
- The impact of homework upon the standards of children’s attainment is monitored and included when reporting to parents.
- All children are expected to complete the homework tasks. Should a child fail to complete homework on a regular basis, parents will be contacted and an opportunity will be provided for the child to complete the task outside curriculum time.

The Role of the Parent/Carer

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude towards homework and value its importance.

It is expected that parents will support their children by:

- taking an active interest in their child’s homework,
- encouraging them and praising their efforts,

- supporting them in particular tasks,
- helping them to devise strategies for remembering facts,
- supervising and enabling them to complete tasks,
- keeping in touch with the class teacher through the Home/School Diary,
- by reminding them to hand in their homework on time,
- by noting when a reasonable amount of time has been spent on a homework task and making the decision to stop, if necessary, before completion (and informing the class teacher of this decision).

It is helpful for parents/carers to discuss the following questions with their child:

- When is it a good time to do homework?
- Where is the best place for homework to be done?
- What helps concentration?
- How long should my homework take me?
- Should I ask for help with my homework, even when it is finishing work started in class?
- Who should I ask for help and how much help should I expect?

Communication

Details of each week’s homework expectations will be written in each child’s home-school diary.

This will include:

- The date the task was set
- The deadline for the task to be handed in
- Details of what the task entails
- An indication of both compulsory and optional homework tasks (making it very clear which are which).

The homework priorities for St. Andrew’s Church of England Primary School are:

- reading
- number bonds/times tables
- spellings/ phonics

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to agree and monitor the school homework policy. The Governing Body may, at any time, request from the Headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in the school.

Homework Tasks

The following pages (Appendices) show how homework is organised across the school in each year group

Signed:.....

Date: December 2015

Review date: December 2018

EYFS Homework Expectations

Daily (Monday to Friday)

- Read with an adult for 10 minutes, and have your Reading Diary signed. (This could be a reading book or a 'Bug Club' activity).

Weekly

A weekly planner is provided for parents to explain the curriculum for the week. Homework books are handed out on Tuesday and collected on the following Monday with practical tasks in the following areas to be completed:

- Maths
- Phonics
- Handwriting

'Big Write'

Later on in the year, the EYFS children receive the Big Write homework.

Each Monday evening, children should discuss the task on the Big Write sheet with the family and have it signed. Please bring this into school on Tuesday morning. (10 minutes)

Key Stage 1

Year 1 Homework Expectations

Daily (Monday to Friday)

- Children should read with an adult for 10 – 15 minutes, and the Reading Diary should be signed. (This could be a reading book or a 'Bug Club' activity).
- Spellings related to the children's phonics work are issued each Friday. Children should use the 'Look/study/cover/write/check method on a daily basis. (5 minutes)

Weekly

Homework books are given out on a Friday and should be handed in on the following Thursday. The homework will be an activity related to the current learning from across the curriculum. (20 minutes)

'Big Write'

Each Monday evening, children should discuss the task on the Big Write sheet with the family and have it signed. Please bring this into school on Tuesday morning. (10 minutes)

Year 2 Homework Expectations

Daily (Monday to Friday)

- Children should read with an adult for 10 – 15 minutes, and the Reading Diary signed. (This could be a reading book or a 'Bug Club' activity).
- Spellings related to the children's phonics/Literacy work are issued each Friday. Children should use the 'Look/study/cover/write/check method to practise on a daily basis. (5 minutes)
- Practise number bonds/multiplication tables (5 minutes)

Weekly

Homework books are given out on a Friday and should be handed in on the following Thursday. The weekly homework will either be a Maths or a Literacy activity. (20 minutes)

'Big Write'

Each Monday evening, children should discuss the task on the Big Write sheet with the family and have it signed. Please bring this into school on Tuesday morning. (10 minutes)

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 Homework Expectations

Daily (Monday to Friday)

- Children should read with an adult for 10 – 15 minutes, and the Reading Diary should be signed. (This could be a reading book or a 'Bug Club' activity).
- Practise number bonds/multiplication tables (5 - 10 minutes)
- Practise spellings (5 – 10 minutes)

Spellings

Children should learn the spelling list given out each Friday for a test the following Friday. Use the Look/Study/Cover/Write/Check method on the sheet.

Then choose three activities from the Tic Tac Toe sheet to consolidate the learning. The homework book should be brought in on Friday.

Weekly

Maths

A written task is given out on Fridays to be handed in on the following Wednesday. Maths homework is set separately for each Maths group. (30 minutes)

'Big Write'

Each Monday evening, children should discuss the task on the Big Write sheet with the family and have it signed. Please bring this into school on Tuesday morning. (15 minutes)

From time to time, there may be an additional activity connected with topic work.

Year 4 Homework Expectations

Daily (Monday to Friday)

- Children should read with an adult for 10 – 15 minutes, and the Reading Diary should be signed. (This could be a reading book or a 'Bug Club' activity).
- Practise multiplication tables (5 - 10 minutes)
- Practise spellings (5 – 10 minutes)

Spellings

Children should learn the spelling list given out each Friday for a test the following Friday. Use the Look/Study/Cover/Write/Check method on the sheet.

Weekly

Maths

A written task is given out on Fridays to be handed in on the following Friday. Maths homework is set separately for each Maths group. (30 minutes)

Literacy

A literacy task is given out on Friday to complete for the following Friday. (20 minutes)

'Big Write'

Each Monday evening, children should discuss the task on the Big Write sheet with the family and have it signed. Bring this into school on Tuesday morning. (15 minutes)

From time to time, there may be an additional activity connected with topic work.

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 Homework Expectations

Daily (Monday to Friday)

- Children should read for 10 – 15 minutes, and the Reading Diary should be completed and signed weekly by an adult. (This could be a reading book or a 'Bug Club' activity).
- Practise multiplication tables (5 - 10 minutes)
- Practise spellings (5 – 10 minutes)

Spellings

Children should learn the spelling list given out each Friday for a test the following Friday.

Use the Look/Study/Cover/Write/Check method to practise.

A sentence for each spelling should be written in the homework book.

Weekly

Maths

A written task is given out on Fridays to be handed in on the following Wednesday. The Maths homework is set separately for each Maths group. (30 minutes)

'Big Write'

Each Monday evening, children should discuss the task on the Big Write sheet with the family and have it signed. Bring this into school on Tuesday morning. (15 minutes)

From time to time, there may be an additional activity connected with topic work.

Year 6 Homework Expectations

Daily (Monday to Friday)

- Children should read for 10 – 15 minutes, and the Reading Diary should be completed and signed weekly by an adult. (This could be a reading book or a 'Bug Club' activity).
- Practise multiplication tables (5 - 10 minutes)
- Practise spellings (5 – 10 minutes)

Spellings

Children should learn the spelling list given out each Friday for a test the following Friday.

Use the Look/Study/Cover/Write/Check method to practise.

Weekly

Maths

A written task is given out on Fridays to be handed in on the following Thursday. The Maths homework is set separately for each Maths group. (30 minutes)

Literacy

A literacy task is given out on Friday to complete for the following Thursday. (30 minutes)

'Big Write'

Each Monday evening, children should discuss the task on the Big Write sheet with the family and have it signed. Bring this into school on Tuesday morning. (15 minutes)

From time to time, there may be an additional activity connected with topic work.

Further information/advice:

- ✓ There may be the occasional exception to the homework guidance laid out above.
- ✓ If you or your child have any concerns about the homework set, please speak to your class teacher.