

HOMEWORK POLICY

St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School

RATIONALE

What is homework?

Homework refers to any work/activity which pupils are asked to do outside of lessons either independently or with support from parents/carers.

Parents are asked to support this as part of our Home/School Agreement and this support is important.

We believe that well organised homework can play an important role in helping children to consolidate their school learning. The amount and type of homework given will reflect the age or stage the pupil has reached and it is intended to support and complement the work they do in school.

LINK TO MISSION STATEMENT

Homework is linked to our mission to "educate and inspire every child to fulfil their unique giftedness within a loving Catholic community".

AIMS

- To help develop an effective partnership with parents and other carers in helping children to achieve their best
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths
- To extend school learning via reinforcement and revision
- To promote enthusiasm and passion for learning in areas of study
- To ensure parents have a clear understanding of expectations for themselves and the child
- To encourage parents to use resources for learning at home and to work together with their children to enjoy learning
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- To encourage older children to develop confidence and self-discipline needed for independent study and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school

OBJECTIVES

The children will:

- know what is expected and when it needs to be ready
- be given tasks that they can reasonably be expected to achieve and which will either consolidate or extend the learning they have met in school
- gain appropriate recognition of their work and have opportunities to clarify misconceptions

The teacher will:

- set homework on time and in accordance with the guidelines
- set tasks appropriate to children's ability and which consolidate or extend the learning they have met in school
- Correct children's work and offer brief feedback
- Reward and celebrate children's work

The parents/carers will be encouraged to:

- Encourage and support their children to ensure that all homework is completed.
- Listen to their child read aloud at least 3 times a week. Parents of younger children or children experiencing difficulty with reading will do this at least 5 times a week.
- Support their child by providing guidance, ideas and suggestions but avoid the temptation to do the work for them.

The school's leadership team and governors will:

- Support children and families in developing a successful approach to completion of homework activities
- Enter all children who regularly complete reading homework into a termly draw to win a prize.

Homework at St Thomas More's

At St Thomas More's we ensure that homework activities are given in line with DfE guidelines.

At St Thomas Mores homework will have 2 principal functions:

1. To **consolidate, reinforce and practise** key learning in reading, spelling and number.
 2. To promote **learning and enquiry** as a family.
- Homework will therefore fall under two separate categories.

	CONSOLIDATION, PRACTICE AND REINFORCEMENT	LEARNING AND ENQUIRY
Examples	Spelling practice, learning number bonds or times tables. Reading aloud to an adult. A piece of writing that supports work done at school. A mathematical task the supports work done at school. Hand writing practice.	Produce a model. Write a poem. Record a rap or song. Produce a piece of artwork. Take or collect photographs. Interview someone. Gather data or information on a topic.
How will these be recognised?	Children will have weekly spelling and number tests, which will be marked that day and taken home to correct. Mathematical or written work will be corrected and a brief comment issued.	Projects will be displayed in class with a brief note from the teacher attached to each project.
How long will children be given to complete it?	Typically spellings and number fact work will be set at the beginning of the week and tested at the end of the week.	All projects will be set with a deadline for completion. Younger children will have a shorter timescale in which to complete the work, usually 1-2 weeks. Older children will have greater freedom to complete projects of their own choosing from a given list. They would usually have 3-6 weeks to complete their work.
What are the procedures for non-completion of this homework?	If homework of this kind is not completed, one of the following sanctions will apply: Discussion between teacher and child Discussion between teacher/Phase Leader and an expectation that homework is completed Lunchtime supervision given to complete homework Discussion between teacher and parents to discuss why homework not completed and to offer support Headteacher to meet with parents if preceding stages have not been effective	There are no formal consequences for non-completion of Learning and Enquiry tasks. However, teaching staff will do everything possible to encourage and support pupils and their families to complete a project.

Progression in type and quantity of homework

Year R

Weekly reading recorded in home/school Reading Record
Key words to learn
From Spring term: Weekly handwriting/ sounds activity *or* number activity

Year 1

Weekly reading recorded in home/school Reading Record
Key words to learn as applicable
Number facts to learn (QFM)
From October half term: Weekly spelling lists to learn
Half-termly learning and enquiry task

Year 2

Weekly reading recorded in home/school Reading Record
Key words to learn as applicable
Number facts *or* times tables to learn (QFM)
Weekly spelling lists to learn
Half-termly learning and enquiry task

Year 3/4

Weekly reading recorded in home/school Reading Record
Number bonds *or* times tables to learn
Weekly spelling lists to learn
2-3 learning and enquiry tasks to complete every 2-3 weeks
Occasional consolidation or revision tasks

Year 5/6

Weekly reading recorded in home/school Reading Record
Times tables *or* division facts to learn
Weekly spelling lists to learn
A menu of learning and enquiry tasks to complete within 3-4 weeks
Occasional consolidation or revision tasks

MONITORING

Each Class Teacher will keep a record of homework set and completed. The Leadership Team will monitor policy through pupil interviews and discussion with teachers and any outcomes will be reported to Curriculum, Admissions & Pastoral committee.

Approved: Curriculum, Admissions & Pastoral committee, 14/7/16
To be Reviewed: Bi-annually
Review Date: Summer 2018