



RATIONALE

Work undertaken at home should build upon the skills, knowledge and understanding already taught in school as a means of consolidating or extending it. Home learning is a key factor in raising pupil achievement. It also helps to cement the close working relationships between home and school, breaking down artificial barriers about where learning takes place.

PRINCIPLES

At St Mary's we aim to:

1. Create opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
2. Enable pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
3. Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths.
4. Extend opportunities for school learning, for example through extra reading or following a topic in extra depth.
5. Encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own in preparation for secondary school.

GUIDELINES

The following points should be considered when expecting and setting home learning tasks:-

1. The nature and type of home learning changes throughout a pupil's school career. With younger children it usually means the involvement of parents and carer in joint activities. However, as children work towards Year 6, the role will change and become more supportive.
2. Home learning can take many forms with different expectations and outcomes.
3. The amount and frequency of home learning tasks should increase as a pupil gets older.
4. Home learning should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher. Parents/carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

HOME LEARNING TASKS

Foundation Stage

Activities to practice at home may include:

- Reading books together
- Counting in practical situations, for example up and down stairs
- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes#
- Identification of shapes in the environment
- Fastening and unfastening buttons and zips and tying shoelaces

Key Stage One

Home learning tasks may include:

- Reading activities
- Spelling
- Other literacy and maths work
- Finding things at home to support learning

Key Stage Two

Home learning tasks may include:

- Reading
- Spelling
- Literacy activities
- Maths activities
- 'Talk homework' that involves discussing the focus for a future piece of writing
- Planning presentations
- Researching topics/ project work.
- Learning words to songs
- PE activities
- Learning Times Tables
- Learning number facts and number bonds
- Practising calculation strategies learned in class

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of home learning tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance about how they might assist their child. This may be done by sending a note home with the work or by discussions in person.
- To set up a routine for home learning tasks that is established and communicated to parents at the start of the year.
- To ensure that any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who complete homework tasks.
- To mark home learning tasks as necessary and give feedback to pupils.

Role of the Head teacher

- To check compliance of the Home Learning Policy.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To sign a home school agreement dealing with home learning.
- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the home learning tasks.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their home learning work.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their work at home.
- To become actively involved and support their child with home learning activities.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. St Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to achieve their full potential.

REVIEW

Home learning will be reviewed annually by staff and the Head teacher, so that improvements to arrangements can be made in response to the needs of the pupils in school.