

## **ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

At St. Anne's 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.

### **2. HOMEWORK - A DEFINITION**

Homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. At St Anne's, we see work done at home as a valuable part of school work.

### **3. THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK**

The school regards the purpose of homework as being :

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school and the development of their child.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Mathematics .
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

At St Anne's Catholic Primary School staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon.

We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out of-school activities, e.g. football, swimming, ballet, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc.

Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability.

We hope parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

Children attending peripatetic music lessons are also expected to practise in their own time.

### **4. CURRENT PRACTICE**

At the beginning of the academic year, each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework.

Parents will be issued with a newsletter each half term to inform them about the main topics and units of work being covered.

A termly R.E newsletter informing parents of the work being covered along with suggestions for follow up work and family activities will be issued.

All Key Stage 2 pupils have homework books in which they complete homework.

## 5. THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK

The nature of homework will change as children get older. Developing a partnership with parents and carers and involving them actively in children's learning is a key objective.

The expectation on a weekly basis will be as follows:

- Key Stage 1 - Short activities of different kinds – speaking and listening activities, reading together, finding out information, learning number facts and playing games.
- Key Stage 2 – Speaking and listening activities, Reading, a piece of English and a piece of Maths. Sometimes pupils may be given RE, Topic or Science work.

Homework will be set on Fridays and the expectation is that it will be returned the following Wednesday. However, it is expected that pupils throughout the school will either read with their parents or independently on a daily basis.

There will be a Monday lunchtime drop-in Homework Club between 12.30 pm and 1pm for those children in Years 3-6 who do not have access to ICT at home or need additional support with something they have found difficult.

## 6. THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND CARERS IN SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

### Role of the school

- Monitor the effectiveness of the homework policy.
- Support parents with the newer methods of teaching in English and Mathematics by offering parent information meetings throughout the year. This will put into context the development of English and Mathematics skills from Reception through to Year Six.

### Role of the class teacher

- Plan homework as an integral part of curriculum planning.
- Inform pupils and parents of homework timetables.
- Match homework, as far as possible, to the ability of the children.
- Provide feedback which is appropriate to the task e.g. individual comment from the teacher which may be verbal or written, marking the task within an acceptable timeframe, pupil self marking, reading diary entry written by pupils or parents.

## Role of the parents/carers

The school recognises that parents and carers have a key role to play in supporting pupils' homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older. For much of their homework, particularly with younger children, parents and carers will be encouraged to become actively involved in joint homework activities.

To avoid 'battles' over homework we recommend that :-

- Children should be allowed to work at an appropriate pace.
- An acknowledgement should be given to their own interests.
- The task is undertaken at an appropriate time when the child is best able to concentrate.
- Your child may need lots of encouragement, praise and even your company and help for certain tasks.
- That work at home will often be a shared activity.
- Work at home should be planned carefully around other interests to avoid clashes.
- It should not be used as a threat or punishment.

Your HELP, ENCOURAGEMENT and PRAISE is the key to success.

We ask you to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework alone, or more often for younger children, together with an adult.

We do not envisage a primary school child spending time in isolation with work he or she may find difficult. Give support and help but do not do the work for the children. Please support children in completing tasks and return work in a tidy presentable state.

## Concerns

If any child does not understand a task, parents should encourage them to ask their teacher for further guidance. If you have any concerns about the levels of homework or the content etc., please see your child's class teacher. Do not let your child get upset about homework; if there is a problem come in and speak to the teacher about it.

## 6. FEEDBACK

The school recognises the importance of providing prompt and accurate feedback to pupils, parents and carers on how well homework tasks have been tackled and the knowledge, skills and understanding that are being developed. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback ranging from an appropriate comment of praise, appreciation or area for improvement to a mark, and these will vary according to the age of the pupil.

## 7. REVIEWING THE POLICY

The homework policy will be reviewed every two years. Where significant changes to the policy are felt to be required, proposals will be presented to the Governing Body and parents consulted.