

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

Mission statement

We are a Roman Catholic Community committed to:

- Mutual respect, positive encouragement and participation
- Recognising the different personal and educational needs of all the pupils
- The delivery of the full National Curriculum together with the religious education syllabus approved by the Catholic Church
- The highest standards of teaching, learning and performance
- Maintaining a supportive partnership with parents, guardians, the parish and the wider community
- The professional development of all staff

Introduction

Whilst homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment, we acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Homework should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations which play a vital role in developing their skills, interests and talents to the full.

Aims

At St Thomas' we aim to:

- Develop a home-school partnership
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- Extend school learning.

Teachers will establish a regular pattern of homework. Parents and guardians will be informed at the beginning of the school year on which day their child will be given homework and when it will be required to be handed in. It is the responsibility of the class teacher to plan and provide manageable tasks for the children and to liaise with the parents or guardians when necessary.

At St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School we provide a range of homework that is linked to the age and ability of the child and that ensures that prior learning has been understood.

Children are not given homework when on unauthorised absence. If a child regularly fails to complete homework, parents and guardians will be informed.

Content of Homework

FS2

During the Foundation Stage the children will be given one piece of homework each week.

KS1

Each child will be given simple tasks that involve learning spellings, reading and other English and number work. It is important that they come to appreciate that books are interesting and enjoyable.

KS2

As the children progress through the school they will benefit from a wider range of tasks that enable them to prepare for entry to Secondary School.

Reading

All children are given reading books to read at home together with a contact book that is filled in by the class teacher, TA's and parent helpers as well as parents and guardians to record the child's progress. This helps ensure close contact between home and school so that any problems concerning the child's progress can be quickly resolved.

It is expected that children will be heard read by or be read to by a parent or guardian for at least 10 minutes each night.

Spelling

The following number of words, sentences and definitions are the maximum that will be given. The actual number given will be dependent on ability.

Year 1	up to 10 words - spelling to be learnt		
Year 2	up to 10 words - spelling to be learnt		
Year 3	up to 12 words - spelling to be learnt	8 sentences	
Year 4	up to 16 words - spelling to be learnt	6 sentences	6 definitions
Year 5	up to 20 words - spelling to be learnt	8 sentences	6 definitions
Year 6	up to 20 words - spelling to be learnt	up to 10 sentences	up to 10 definitions

Special Educational Needs

Tasks given will be similar to those given to the rest of the children in the class but will be differentiated according to the child's needs and abilities.

School Holidays

Homework will not be given during holidays. Teachers may on occasions give children the opportunity to research for project work during a holiday period but this will be optional. It is anticipated, however, that all children will continue to read to parents or guardians during holiday time from chosen texts appropriate to their child's age.

Time Allocations

N.B. These are the National recommended guidelines only and are not statutory

Year Group	Time allocation	Subjects
Reception	20 minutes for topic related homework and up to 10 minutes per evening for reading	Daily reading, weekly Maths/English/Topic related homework
Year 1	Up to one hour per week	Daily reading, weekly spellings, weekly Maths or English or research
Year 2	One hour per week	Daily reading, weekly spellings and times tables practice, weekly Maths, English or research
Year 3	One and a half hours per week	Daily reading, weekly spellings and times tables practice, sentences and one other piece of homework per week
Year 4	One and a half hours per week	Daily reading, weekly spellings and times tables practice and one other piece of homework per week
Year 5	Two and a half hours per week	Daily reading, weekly spellings and times tables practice and one other piece of homework per week
Year 6	Two and a half hours per week	Daily reading, weekly spellings and times tables practice and up to two other pieces of homework per week

The Role of Parents

- Parents and guardians are valued as their children's first educators and therefore should support all aspects of their learning in line with the home/school agreement
- They are asked to provide a suitable place in which homework can be completed with the minimum of distraction whether a child is working alone or with an adult
- Parents and guardians will encourage children to persevere with a task and give support if appropriate

- It is essential that parents and guardians make it clear to their children that they value homework and that they are willing to support the school in their approach
- Class teachers are explicit with instructions, but parents and guardians are asked to consult the teacher if they are unsure what is required
- Parents and guardians will encourage and monitor homework and inform the school if an issue arises. If parents or guardians are having difficulties with the homework they are encouraged to approach the teacher for help at the earliest opportunity
- It is the responsibility of the parents and guardians to ensure that homework is completed and handed in on time
- Work that is handed in late, past the deadline, may not be marked

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues. Careful consideration is given to any concern raised about homework by any parent or guardian.

Reviewed: January 2019

Next review date: January 2021