



ST KEVIN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Governors and staff of St Kevin's Primary School believe the school to be a vital part of St John's Parish Community. We are firmly committed to:

- **the aims of Catholic Education;**
- **providing appropriate and effective learning opportunities for all our children;**
- **developing positive pastoral care systems in our school;**
- **establishing close links with the home, parish and wider community; and**
- **developing all members of the school community to enable them to fulfil their role within the school.**

The school policy for homework was developed by the assessment team, agreed by the whole staff and has the full agreement of St Kevin's Board of Governors. The policy was approved and ratified by the Board of Governors on April 5th 2011.

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 Kevin's Primary School we see work done at home as a valuable part of learning.

Aims

In the setting of homework we seek to:

- ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school;
- provide carefully planned and structured work to support and extend learning and progression;
- provide opportunities for parents, children and school to work together in partnership;
- encourage pupils and parents to share and enjoy learning experiences;
- ensure the needs of individual pupils are taken into account;
- enhance pupils' learning skills by training them to plan and organise their time, develop good working habits and self-discipline and to encourage ownership and responsibility for their own learning; and
- encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently in preparation for the requirements of secondary school.

The Nature of Homework

For children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, developing a partnership with parents and carers and involving them actively in their children's learning is a key objective. Short activities and exercises of different kinds - based around literacy, numeracy, the world around us, spellings and reading - provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning and to practice key skills in a supportive environment.

The nature of homework will change as children get older. In Key Stage 2 homework will provide an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning. It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time which may not be long, to study on their own. By the time children reach P6/7 their homework programme will cover a wide range of tasks and curriculum content, with a regular weekly schedule. This approach will benefit their learning and also ensure that their transition to secondary school is as smooth as possible.

Although homework is generally core subject based, it is also set in a range of different subjects so that the children can have extra opportunity to practice and extend their skills and knowledge throughout the curriculum.

Time Allocation for Homework

The following are recommended time allocations for completion of homework activities. Additional time should be spent on reading and revision homework.

Year Group	Time spent on written homework per night
Foundation Stage	10 - 15 Minutes
Key Stage One	20 – 25 Minutes
Key Stage Two	30 – 45 Minutes

Role of the Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- complete assigned homework every night;
- make full use of all the opportunities they are presented with;
- take pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected;
- be organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school or at home; and
- take responsibility for handing in the completed task each day.

Role of the Parents/Carers

Parents can help to support their children by:

- providing somewhere peaceful for children to work without the distractions of television and other family members;
- providing encouragement and support to their children;
- being actively involved in their child's homework;
- ***ensuring their child's homework is completed every night, then sign and date;*** and
- informing teachers if set homework is not at the appropriate level for their child.

We do not envisage a primary school child spending time in isolation with work he or she may find difficult.

Role of the Class Teacher

The role of the class teacher is to:

- provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance on how they might assist their child. (*This may be done through notes with the work, at parents' meetings or at an open evening.*);
- provide a range of regular homework tasks and activities, common to all classes in a year group, based on an easily followed routine;
- consolidate and extend learning opportunities which link directly to the curriculum being taught;
- ensure pupils have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and a common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually, according to ability;
- mark homework regularly, with appropriate feedback for both pupils and parents; and
- communicate with parents when appropriate, keeping them informed of their child's progress.

Feedback

The school recognises the importance of providing prompt and accurate feedback to pupils, parents and carers on how well homework tasks have been completed. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback ranging from a sticker, stamp, smiley face, mark, an appropriate comment, or indication of an area for improvement and these will vary according to the age of the pupil.

It is expected that all homework should be completed. If a pupil fails to complete a homework without an adequate explanation or note from a parent, they will be instructed to complete it the following night, during break time or during free choice time at the discretion of the class teacher.

Special needs

We recognise the importance of providing opportunities for all pupils to succeed. When planning for homework, we take into account the wide range of abilities of all children and provide differentiated homework when necessary. Whilst children with special educational needs may benefit from different homework, it is important that they should do as much in common with other children as possible.

Study Support Facility

As part of the extended school's programme at St Kevin's, a homework club operates within the school every day, Monday through Thursday, for Y5 & Y6 pupils.

This policy will be reviewed by the AfL team in 2014.