

## ST BRIDE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY



### **Homework is designed to:**

- help a child to develop a habit of personal study;
- reinforce work done in class and practise skills;
- give parents an opportunity to become involved in their child's work;
- arouse interest and curiosity;
- stimulate imagination;
- promote an open approach to problem solving;
- foster and create interests;
- include activities which are enjoyable experiences;
- reflect a balance between the subject areas of the curriculum;
- promote personal pride in achievement, initiative and self-confidence;

Homework should be a rewarding experience for children and work set should be varied and reflect the themes and topics covered in class. Homework should not be a burden to pupils or parents.

### **Homework Content**

Homework set will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.

It will regularly contain reading, phonics/spellings, mathematics, the learning of prayers, tables and other essential mathematical facts. For older children it may also include research, including internet research\*, word processing, written work, artwork and the completion of unfinished class work (if requested by/or in agreement with parents). *Unfinished class work as a rule should not be sent home in addition to normal homework, unless requested by the parent.*

It should be noted that time devoted to reading homework is as important as written work. It is also important that non-written work is attended to, learned, practised or revised by the child.

Such work may include;

- learning of prayers, spellings, number facts, tables;
- reading set pages/chapters from reading books and novels;
- investigative work involving reading research (using dictionary resource/internet), investigative work in mathematics and World Around Us topics;
- discussion of ideas with parents;

Art work, be it an illustration of work or Art in its own right, is also considered an important aspect of homework.

Each child should be encouraged to read/or have read to them, supplementary material (not prescribed by the teacher) for 10 minutes daily and to record this in the child's Reading Record Book.

Occasionally, as part of the school rewards system, pupils may be awarded a 'homework pass' which entitles the children to a night off homework.

\*See School Policy in relation to Acceptable Use of the Internet

### **Recording of homework**

Details of daily homework will be recorded in the designated homework diary / exercise book and completed in a designated exercise book/or homework sheet. Parents should sign each homework when completed, having checked against the listed homework. Each child's record of reading material should also be recorded daily in the child's Reading Record Book and signed by his/her parent.

Parents should supervise homework and report to the teacher if a child is experiencing difficulty and/or is spending too much time on a particular homework.

Pupils are given tips on how best to complete homework, (see Appendix 1).

### **Estimated time to be spent on homework**

Time spent on homework will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are guidelines for time spent at homework, including reading homework. *(This is the maximum time any child should spend on homework, which will be differentiated to take into account different abilities).*

Year 1 - 15-20 mins

Year 2 - 20-25 mins

Year 3 - 20-30 mins

Year 4 - 30-35 mins

Year 5 - 30-40 mins

Year 6 - 40-50min

Year 7 (Term 1) - 60 – 75mins

Year 7 (Term 2/3) - 30 – 40mins

### **Parents**

The school feels it is important that parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's work. Homework should be set at a level which, in general, the child is able to complete unaided, with parents checking over the completed work or quizzing something learnt.

Parents should follow the above guidance for time taken to complete homeworks and exercise their own judgement if these are exceeded. They are requested to sign the homework and to add comments, if they wish, in order to acknowledge the child's efforts.

If a child consistently is unable to submit homework, the teacher will contact the parents to see if there are any specific reasons for this to be the case.

***Parents/Guardians could:***

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupil should have the Homework Diary/Book open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and mobile phone/games' console's/T.V.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within the times recommended.
- Sign the homework book checking that all homework is complete
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework diary, books, pencils, P.E./swimming gear, if needed, for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework diary, book or note.
- Please sign and date Friday assessments (where appropriate)

***Pupils should:***

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary/book
- Ensure they take home relevant books and worksheets.
- Complete homework to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly and make sure it is signed by parents.

***Teachers should:***

- Explain to parents the homework policy at the September curriculum meeting.
- Discuss with children homework procedures and good practice.
- Set homework and provide feedback to pupils which should be positive, constructive and should acknowledge the child's efforts.
- Monitor homework for appropriateness, level and time taken, differentiate as appropriate
- Ensure pupils have recorded their homework in their homework diaries/books or provide a print out (as appropriate)
- Ensure Reading Record Books are kept up to date and signed. Encourage pupils/parents to record supplementary reading in the appropriate section

**What happens when Homework is not done?**

When homework is **regularly** not done the teacher will contact the parents (e.g. a note in homework diary) to discuss the situation.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating the Homework Policy**

In order to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Homework Policy, a selection of homeworks will be collected periodically to ensure variety, progression and differentiation are taking place.

In addition, this homework policy will be reviewed every three years, or more often if appropriate.

## Appendix 1

### **Useful tips for pupils:**

Make sure you take home the necessary books and materials each day:  
e.g. glue stick, pencil, rubber, ruler etc

Plan to do your homework in a quiet area or room.

Work carefully through each part of your work;

1. read questions and material closely
2. follow instructions, number and write your answers neatly
3. ask yourself - have I answered the question asked of me?
4. Ask for help from an adult/older sibling if you need to

Begin each part of your written work with a title, page number, chapter title and date. Underline this information.

Approximately half-way through your homework take a 5-minute break.

When homework is completed show your work to your parent and make sure it is signed.

At the end of homework time make sure you place your books, pencils and materials carefully in your bag ready for school the next day.

Remember to bring PE gear, instruments, Permission Slips etc. as necessary.