

St John's Angell Town CE Primary School



Homework Policy

Reviewed	New policy on trial Spring 2016-Summer 2016
Next Review	Autumn 2016 2017

This policy is closely linked to the school's Teaching and Learning and the New Curriculum 2014 Policy documents (copies are free to download from the school website).

Introduction

The aims of the homework policy are as follows:

- to develop a consistent approach throughout the school to homework activities;
- to practise and reinforce skills taught in school
- to achieve progression towards independence and a pupil's responsibility for their own learning;
- to make sure the needs of individual pupils are taken into account;
- to ensure that parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and their children;
- to extend and support the learning experience through reinforcement and revision, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- to give opportunities for parents, pupils and the school to work in partnership;
- to provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- to encourage pupils to develop the confidence, self discipline and independent study skills
- to prepare children in year 6 for secondary transfer.

The purpose of homework

Homework allows children to develop and consolidate skills and concepts learnt in the classroom. It also enables children to explore aspects of the curriculum within the home environment. Homework provides an excellent platform from which parents can learn more about the work their children do at school and it enables them to participate more fully in their child's learning.

Many core skills are developed through homework. The promotion of independence, collaborative learning, developing research skills, problem solving, improving ICT skills are just a few of the key skills that are developed through homework. At St John's Angell Town Primary School (SJAT) homework aims to enhance skills, knowledge as well as promote enjoyment of learning.

The type of work that will be sent home or accessed online

A key part of the homework tasks that are set can be classified as '**core learning**'. Core Learning involves the development of basic skills and knowledge. This includes activities such as:

- Daily reading
- Learning key Number Facts (such as times tables and number bonds)
- Spellings, phonics or grammar exercises
- Talk Homework
- Education City (an online learning resources that covers many National Curriculum subjects)

The above activities are short- burst activities that should be completed regularly but for only short periods of time..

Core Learning is supplemented by, **Thematic or Project Learning**. Each there is a whole school theme. Examples of whole school topics include, the Olympics, London, Growth. Children choose from a menu of suggested activities. These may include visits to museums, days out, writing tasks, research at the local library, presentations, design ideas food technology, sporting activities etc. Each activity may encompass a range of subjects or may just focus solely on one.

Time to be spent on homework

The table below serves as a guide to the amount of time that should be dedicated to various homework activities. It is important that children are given support in organising homework routines. It is important that parents provide children with the appropriate level of support (younger children will typically need more support older children should not be over aided). Homework is far more effective when child and parent work in collaboration. Indeed, it is the schools expectation that parent and child should work together.

Early Years	Nursery Reception	Reading daily with parents 10 minutes Talking about school – Daily Number homework- 15 minutes per week Projects should involve large element of hands on learning that encourages parent and pupils collaboration.
Key Stage 1	Year 1 and Year 2	Reading daily about 10 minutes daily Spellings are given weekly for testing - about 15 minutes. per week Times tables / number bonds work – 10 minutes daily Talk Homework – 10 minutes per week Topic task is selected from menu of activities. Minimum of one per week. Project work is returned at the end of the half term. Projects should involve large element of hands on learning that encourages parent and pupils collaboration.
Key Stage 2	Year 3 and Year 4	Reading daily about 15 minutes daily Spellings are given weekly for testing - about 15 minutes. per week Times tables / number bonds work – 10 minutes daily Talk Homework – 10 minutes per week Topic task is selected from menu of activities. Minimum of one per week. Project work is returned at the end of the half term. Topic work should have greater scope for pupils following their own interest.
Key Stage 2	Year 5 and Year 6	Reading daily - 15 minutes. Spellings if appropriate - 15 minutes daily Times tables/ number bonds - 15 minutes daily Talk Homework – 10 minutes per week Topic task is selected from menu of activities. Minimum of one per week. Project work is returned at the end of the half term. Tasks to be to varied degrees of difficulty. Projects to promote greater independence in learning and should be more open ended.
	Year 6	There will be an increasing focus towards SATs revision as the examination period approaches.

How parents can help to support children

- provide a quiet space for children to work without the distractions of television, other family members and pets;
- provide a suitable place, equipped with a comfortable chair, clear table space, good light;
- provide encouragement and support to children when they require it, but remember not to over-aid your child when completing a task
- support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning;
- encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed; and
- be actively involved in homework.

How the school can help to support parents

There will be many parents who want to help their children but are unsure whether they are using the right approach. Guidance is given in subject policies. (see school website). The Maths Written Calculations Policy for example, gives specific guidance on the standard Written methods that are to be used for the four rules of maths. Workshops will be arranged to support parents in both Literacy and Numeracy. Where parents or carers find it difficult to create a homework environment, the school will endeavour to create opportunities to support.

Feedback for pupils, parents or carers and teachers

It is important that feedback is given to pupils as quickly as possible. This is given in a number of ways:

- immediately by parents or carers;
- discussion in class where homework is a part of the class work;
- peer to peer assessment / marking
- adult marking
- through tests such as tables or spellings;
- individual comment from teacher on written assignments;
- pupils reviewing the work done in small groups; and
- presentation of homework in class and school assemblies.

Teachers are interested to know how children carried out activities, whether they were too hard/ too easy/ interesting etc. The Reading Record Book is an ideal place for parents, carers and teachers to record any comments. Parents may also comment on whether the time allocation was appropriate or whether the activity was too short/ too long. As with all school activities, parents are invited to discuss any queries with the class teacher, or the Deputy Head Teacher for Teaching and Learning.

As emphasised previously, St John's Angell Town believe that homework should be a partnership between parents, pupils and teacher. It enhances the learning experience that children receive and is a key component in providing an outstanding education.

This policy is currently under review. The policy is undergoing a trial period. A final decision about ratification will be made at the end of the Summer Term 2016

Signed By: *Rev Rosemarie Mallett*

Designation: Chair of Governors

Next Review: Possible Ratification Autumn 2016