



The Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools
With friendship, trust and kindness we fly!



(Love your neighbour as yourself, Mark 12:31)

Homework Policy

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body every 4 years. This policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body in November 2023. It is due for review November 2027.

Signature N.J.Butcher Executive Headteacher Date: November 2023

Signature S.Watts Chair of Governors Date: November 2023

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with home learning. Our Home/School Agreement ensures that parents are clear about their role in supporting Home learning activities.

Rationale for Home learning

Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. The government had made clear its commitment to homework, where homework was described as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one way in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types and amount of homework

Staff regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum - it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning. As they move through the school, we increase the amount of Home learning that we give the children as in the guidelines above.

We set a variety of homework activities as follows:

EYFS	(3x week) Read Little Wandle book to an adult (Weekly) change of reading for pleasure book.
Year 1/2	(3x week) Read Little Wandle book to an adult. Weekly change of reading for pleasure book. (Weekly) CUSP spelling- <i>for children who have finished the Little Wandle programme.</i> (Weekly) Y1 - access to the Maths game/activity library. (Weekly) Y 2 - access to the Maths game/activity library and/or TTRockstars.
Year 3/4	(Weekly) 'Catch Up' book or English comprehension booklet. (Weekly) change of reading for pleasure book. (Weekly) CUSP spelling (Weekly) TT Rockstars
Year 5/6	(Weekly) change of reading for pleasure book. (Weekly) CUSP spelling (Weekly) TT Rockstars (Weekly) Reading Eggs (Half termly) - Maths or English booklet (equivalent to one piece per week).

Homework is marked according to the school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting home learning to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to those pupils' Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. The Home/School Agreement sets out our expectations of parental support.

If parents have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Use of ICT

ICT is used as a tool to deliver some elements of home learning. We realise that some children have no computer or internet access at home. These children will be provided alternative home learning or allowed extra time and offered opportunities to use school computers.

Failure to complete home learning

Completion of homework is a requirement. Children at KS2 who regularly fail to complete and return tasks will be required to complete them at school during lunch or playtime. This is to ensure that the children are 'high school ready'.

Monitoring and review

The SLT is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy through discussions at staff meetings. We may, for example, discuss examples of work and use these to develop homework provision.

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the homework policy. Our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. Our governing body may, at any time, request from the Executive Headl a report on the way homework is organised in our school.