

St Joseph's Primary School



Homework policy

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to outline the important and valuable role that homework has in the children's education in the school. Homework is an integral part of learning. It extends the children's learning activities beyond the classroom. It is intended that this document will provide some guidelines for parents and, at the same time, help parents to support the work of the teachers in providing an education for all children in the school.

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

Homework is given:-

1. To consolidate work done in the school.
2. To provide opportunities to reinforce concepts and skills taught in class.
3. To afford the children the opportunity to carry out independent research and find out things for themselves.
4. To encourage the children to use their own environment as an aid to learning.
5. To increase parents' awareness of the work their children are doing in school.
6. To allow children the opportunity to gain confidence in their own ability and to complete work successfully.
7. To help the children to develop the habit of personal study.

HOMWORK FORMAT

All children will normally be required to complete homework each evening, Monday to Thursday. Weekend homework will be at the discretion of the class teacher. The homework given will match the children's age and ability. Homework will vary and may include the following:

Reading- Home readers will be at an independent level , ie slightly lower than instructional level in class.

Written work (At least one written exercise per night) - Mathematics, English, Science, Art, History or Geography

Memorizing - Poems, Prayers, Number Facts

Research - Collecting information, Materials or pictures for future work in class.

Project/ topic work-eg maths games/ practical maths activities/investigations/ cut and stick exercises.

PRESENTATION OF HOMEWORK.

Homework should be done neatly and well presented.

A special homework book should normally be used for all written work unless told otherwise by the teacher.

Details of homework written/non written will be given in a homework diary.

NB Children should be encouraged to care for all books sent home by keeping them clean. Homework exercise books should be covered with a paper cover. -Pages must not be ripped from books.

HOMEWORK TIME

It is important that parents encourage their children to see homework as an opportunity to learn and develop.

On average, time spent by the average child on homework should be as follows-

Primary 1	up to 15 minutes
Primary 2	15 - 30 minutes
Primary 3/4	30 - 40 minutes
Primary 5	up to 45 minutes
Primary 6/7	one hour

(This includes time spent reading.)

Each child should be encouraged to read each day and from a variety of sources - eg Library Books (fact and fiction), home readers, newspapers, suitable magazines, comics, books supplied by the home etc.

It is vital that parents take time to discuss the pictures in a book and also what the story is about. Building good comprehension skills through shared discussion with your child is **FUNdamental**.

If your child is having difficulty and is spending a lot of extra time completing the homework, please inform the class teacher.

If a teacher feels that school work was not completed properly to the best of the child's ability, he/she may ask for the work to be completed at home in addition to the normal homework.

It is each teacher's aim to mark homework every day. This is a lengthy process and as such it may not always be possible to mark each child's work on the day.

If a homework is not done on a regular basis, the teacher will inform the principal and the parents will be requested to meet the class teacher.

If the problem persists, the parents will be invited to meet the principal to discuss the matter.

In accordance with our positive behaviour policy, children will be awarded one point daily for the successful completion of homework.

PARENTAL SUPPORT

Parents are anxious to help the children grow, to learn and develop their talents. When children are doing homework, the following guidelines may be of help:-

1. Encourage your child to work to a high standard, work neatly and have a pride in his/her work.
2. Try to have your child work where there are no distractions.
3. Set aside a fixed time for homework.

4. Encourage your child with homework. **Do not do the homework for the child** unless it is a joint parent/ child activity.
5. Give praise when your child is doing his best.
6. Encourage your child to see and talk through his/her mistakes.
7. Non-written homeworks - ie reading, spellings, tables, prayers are important and parents should check that this work is also completed.
8. Parents are asked **to sign all written homework after they have read it** and check that the previous night's corrections are completed.
9. Parents should refer to homework diaries to check that all the homework set is completed.
10. If a child is finding homework too difficult or upsetting, the parents are encouraged to contact the teacher.
11. If a homework is not done or incomplete, a written message must be sent from the parent to the teacher.
