

## St Mary's School Home Learning Policy

At St Mary's School we define 'home learning' as any activity that pupils undertake out of school lesson time, either on their own, or with the support of family members. We know that parental involvement in their child's learning helps children to make progress, and we see home learning as an important way to develop our partnership with parents.

Why set home learning?

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources, and can offer the opportunity for one to one time with an adult;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share bring back to the whole class;
- It's a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of Secondary School.

Home learning at our school

Whilst we support all of the above key principles, at St Mary's School home learning should not dominate home and school life. We accept that not every activity will capture the imagination of all children and parents, and that children can be involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and that life today can be busy. We believe that home learning should be manageable for all concerned, and that if it becomes a burden or source of conflict it ceases to be constructive.

We suggest amounts of time that should be spent on a task, but these are a guide. We are realists, and we know that real life can get in the way (and sometimes provide some better learning experiences than the home learning we set.) If you, as parents, decide that your child will not complete some of their home learning tasks, please can you write a sentence to that effect in your child's Home-School Learning Book. (E.g. 12.04.16 Fred did not read this evening, as we were on the beach looking in the rock pools. Signed: M. Bloggs)

Should a child not complete their home learning they will not be punished, although each teacher will keep a discreet register, and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, the class teacher will contact you to discuss how this situation can be improved.

Home Learning Policy

If you find the home learning tasks inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a source of conflict, or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently, please talk with your child's teacher in the first instance. If you still have concerns, please talk with Maria Stegenwalner, the Headteacher.

What should my child be doing?

Reception	Read Write Inc Reading At times complete an activity linked to the Early Years curriculum lasting for about 10 minutes.	Year Four	Read for 20 minutes daily Spellings 1 online Maths activity Learning times tables Two 20 minute tasks per week.
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			A home learning task that may take 2-3 weeks.
Year One	Read Write Inc Reading 3 times per week. Spellings 1 online Maths activity A creative project that may take up to 2 weeks.	Year Five	Read for 20 minutes daily Spellings 1 online Maths activity Learning times tables Two or three 20-30 minute tasks A creative project that may take 2-3 weeks.
Year Two	Read Write Inc Reading 3 times per week (Children off RWI – reading 15 minutes every night) Spellings 1 online Maths activity A creative project that may take up to 2 weeks.	Year Six	Read for 20 minutes daily Spellings 1 online Maths activity Learning times tables Two or three 20-30 minute tasks A creative task that may take 2-3 weeks.
Year Three	Read for 15 minutes daily Spellings 1 online Maths activity Learning times tables Two 20 minute tasks per week A creative project that may take 2-3 weeks.		

#### Our routines and expectations

- All teachers will provide a timetable for parents detailing when home learning tasks should be set.
- The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home. It is our intention not to send home learning that the children cannot already do, i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills.
- There should be a clear explanation/ reminder from the teacher of what is expected, and details of when the work
- Each child has a Home-School Learning Book and folder, and the majority of tasks are kept in there, although some work is online.
- Not all home learning will be marked, for example, times tables practise may feed into a class practise activity, reflections of 'Big Questions' may feed into a class discussion.
- Home learning with a significant outcome should be marked and the children given feedback.
- Home learning that is not related to English or Mathematics, should be linked to the class topic.
- We may ask parents to support home learning by asking to you to work with your children to learn about an aspect of a topic. Don't feel that you have to produce a masterpiece – it's the talking that's important, and the time spent enjoying learning together. Parents might, for example, find themselves supporting research of Egyptian Gods, finding out about grandparents' experience of school or measuring objects around the home. This also means that each child can pursue a set task at their own level of ability.

- We expect the children to maintain the same standards of presentation of home learning as we set in school, i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or blue handwriting pen.
- Between Reception and Year 2 school staff manage the sticking in of sheets and instructions. We ask the children and parents in Years 3 to 6 to take responsibility for sticking sheets in the book and keeping the book tidy.
- It is our policy not to give out homework over the holidays and the half term breaks. The exception will be where the parent and teacher agree some specific extra work would be beneficial.
- Our support teachers may send specific tasks home to support the learning of the children they support, but this should be discussed with parents when they talk to the class teacher about their child's individual learning plan.
- If you take holiday during term-time, something we actively discourage, parents may not request work from the teacher. We suggest that parents organise a holiday diary.