

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Agreed by Governors: July 2021

To be reviewed: March 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

*As one family working together
to be the best that we can be,
we live, love and learn with Jesus.*

INTRODUCTION

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from school. Homework encompasses a variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

RATIONALE FOR HOMEWORK

Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper "Excellence in Schools" where homework was seen as 'an essential part of good education.' We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. We see homework as an important way of establishing good communication between teachers and parents. One of the major aims of our school is to develop the children as independent learners and we believe strongly that homework an important way in which children acquire the skills of independence.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play such an important part in the lives of many children. We fully support parents in encouraging their children to make the most use of the opportunities and experiences that are available outside of school.

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. It not only reinforces the learning which has taken place within the school day but also helps children and young people to develop skills and attitudes to promote independent learning.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to develop the home-school partnership
- to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- to extend school learning

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

Homework in the Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) may consist of some or all of the following:

See Appendix 1

Homework in Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2) may include some or all of the following:

- learning spellings
- practising number bonds and tables
- reading aloud to an adult using Oxford Owl resources online
- most other homework will be set using remote learning options in Education City and My Maths
- access to other remote learning options will also be directed

*** Y2 children will be set some specific tasks in preparation for their SATs.**

Homework for Key Stage Two (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) may include some or all of the following:

- learning spellings
- practising tables at speed and stating related division facts
- reading silently or aloud to an adult using Oxford Owl online resources
- most other homework will be set using remote learning options in Education City and My Maths
- access to other remote learning options will also be directed

** Y6 children will be set some specific tasks in preparation for their SATs.*

See Appendix 2

Time limits for homework are as follows:

- **Foundation Stage** - Requirements will increase as your child progresses through the year. Your child's teacher will keep you informed of any changes.
- **Key Stage One** - One hour per week plus 10 minutes per night on reading/spelling/tables
- **Key Stage Two** - Y3 and Y4 20 minutes per night plus 15 minutes per night on reading/spellings/tables
- Y5 30 minutes and Y6 45 minutes per night plus 15 minutes per night on reading/spellings/tables

Homework will be set to cover the week. Children (or parents) should note briefly in the homework diary what activities have been completed each day.

Reading diaries and homework books should be sent to school each Friday and will be returned to you on Mondays.

Children should be heard reading aloud as often as practically possible.

READING AND HOMEWORK SHOULD BE SIGNED EVERY EVENING.

Completion of homework tasks will be checked online by teachers. Very often, children will be asked to verbalise and share their homework in class.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents have a vital role to play in their children's education and homework is an important part of this process. If St Augustine's School is to continue to raise standards for your child, we must work together in partnership.

Without doubt, you, as parents, are vital to your child's education. If we acknowledge the importance of homework in your child's educational development, then your support as a parent is vital in ensuring your child's learning is extended successfully. We invite you to help your child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling your child to visit the library regularly and by discussing the work your child is doing.

If you do not have appropriate access to online learning or if you have any problems or questions about homework, you should, in the first instance, contact your child's class teacher. If your questions are of a more general nature, then please contact the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This policy will be regularly reviewed by staff and governors and if local or national directives are received.

Foundation Stage Homework

NURSERY YEAR

- Weekly Book Lending Library - parents are encouraged to read books with their child at home and to return books regularly.
- Maths Lending Library - parents are encouraged to play Maths games whilst their children are based in the Maths Area.
- Parents are encouraged to reinforce our themes at home and also are asked to contribute any ideas.
- Parents are asked to help their children regularly at home to practise self-help skills which lead to independence eg putting on and fastening coats, shoes, washing hands, using knife and fork etc.
- At certain times, parents will be asked to help their child with a target that the staff may be working towards eg naming colours, shapes, number recognition etc.
- Children are often asked to look at home for objects for displays eg items for sound and colour tables, photographs etc and parents are always informed of the need so that they can help their child look for them.

RECEPTION YEAR

- At the beginning of the year, parents are encouraged to help their children to learn key words by taking part in suggested games and activities with them at home.
- Weekly Book Lending Library - parents are encouraged to read books with their child at home and to return books regularly.
- Maths Lending Library - parents are encouraged to play Maths games whilst their children are based in the Maths Area.
- As the year progresses, we focus upon reinforcing written and number work eg children may be asked to write about what they saw on their way to school or to count items in their house.
- All children are encouraged to read with family members, whether from an actual book or from online choices in Oxford Owl. Parent should complete the reading diary.
- As the year progresses, simple word lists to support phonics, reading and writing will be sent home at the teacher's discretion to reinforce key words.

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Homework Guidance Key Stage One

Homework in Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2) may include some or all of the following:

- learning spellings
 - practising number bonds and tables
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 - other homework will be set using remote learning options in Education City & My Maths
 - access to other remote learning options will also be directed
- *Y2 children may be set some specific tasks in preparation for their SATs.*

Homework Guidance Key Stage Two

Homework for Key Stage Two (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) may include some/all of the following:

- learning spellings
 - practising tables at speed and stating related division facts
 - reading silently or aloud to an adult using Oxford Owl online resources
 - other homework will be set using remote learning options in Education City & My Maths
 - access to other remote learning options will also be directed
- Y3 and Y4 20 minutes per night
plus 15 minutes per night on reading/spellings/tables
- Y5 30 minutes and Y6 45 minutes per night
plus 15 minutes per night on reading/spellings/tables
- *Y6 children may be set some specific tasks in preparation for their SATs.*

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