

# ***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:

- reading aloud to an adult
- learning spellings
- practising number bonds and tables
- writing task (story/poem/letter/sentences etc.)
- writing short prayers
- playing a Maths game or carrying out a simple number investigation
- using the internet or home computer programs to develop learning and understanding
- Design and Technology/Art work

Other activities may also be set.

*\* 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:

- reading silently or aloud to an adult
- learning spellings
- practising tables at speed and stating related division facts
- independent research using a variety of sources i.e. books, interviews, internet
- writing stories
- planning prayers and/or religious celebrations
- carrying out scientific and mathematical investigations
- extended research tasks
- Design and Technology/Art work

Other activities may also be set.

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

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

**Homework will be set on Mondays and Fridays.**

- † **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 on each night *except Thursday* which is a "*homework-free zone.*"

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

**READING AND HOMEWORK SHOULD BE SIGNED EVERY EVENING.**

Homework will be 'marked' in a variety of ways depending on the task. Very often, children will be asked to verbalise and share their homework with the class the following day, as homework will be set to check, consolidate and extend children's understanding of current learning objectives, so it is very important that tasks set are completed on time and returned to school.

## **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 you're 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 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.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

**This policy will be reviewed annually by staff and governors or earlier 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; reward incentive in place for returning and borrowing books.
- Maths Lending Library - parents are encouraged to play Maths games each week 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. This is done through regular Nursery Newsletters, curriculum guidance leaflets and displays.
- 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.
- Half termly Literacy and numeracy leaflets give examples of activities to share together.
- 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.
- Writing is encouraged by the taking home of WILF and writing his news.
- Reading books are taken home every night and children are encouraged to read with their families. Both teacher and parent complete reading diaries.
- Library books are also taken home each week and again children are encouraged to share these with their family.
- As the year progresses, simple spelling lists will be sent home at the teacher's discretion to reinforce key words.

# St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

## Homework Guidance Year Three

### 15 minutes per night on reading/spellings/tables

**Monday:** Spellings/Times Tables - these will be tested the following Monday in class

- Write sentences to show each spelling in use.
- Write out the relevant times table eg  $1 \times 3 = 3$ ,  $2 \times 3 = 6$  etc

**Tuesday:** Themed work, Science investigation or discussion

**Wednesday:** Maths tasks, may include Education City tasks

**Thursday:** No homework - hand in books

**Friday:** Literacy focus based on reading books. This will include a written task.

These may change due to demands of the curriculum or the particular needs of your child.

If your child finds the homework challenging please encourage them to have a go: they can let us know and we can support them at school.

Many thanks for your support.

## Year 3 Homework for Fridays

In Year 3, we are trying to further develop children's comprehension of text. They need to understand what is happening in stories and deduce information from a variety of texts.

These questions/discussion points may help:

Where is the story set? When do you think it is set? (In the future? A long time ago?)

Why do you think the characters behaved in that way?

What does this word mean? (Point to a tricky word)

Who is really kind/nasty/selfish in the story? What do they do to make you think this?

How do you think the character is feeling at the end? How can you tell?

**Children will be directed each Friday to complete a writing task reflecting what they have studied that week and including any relevant themes from their reading books.**

# St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

## Homework Guidance Key Stage Two

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

- reading silently or aloud to an adult
- learning spellings
- practising tables at speed and stating related division facts
- independent research using a variety of sources i.e. books, interviews, internet
- writing stories
- planning prayers and/or religious celebrations
- carrying out scientific and mathematical investigations
- extended research tasks
- Design and Technology/Art work

Other activities may also be set.

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

### † TIMINGS

- Y4 20 minutes per night  
plus 15 minutes per night on reading/spellings/tables
- Y5 30 minutes per night  
plus 15 minutes per night on reading/spellings/tables
- Y6 45 minutes per night  
plus 15 minutes per night on reading/spellings/tables

Homework will be set on each night *except Thursday*, which is a *"homework-free zone."*

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

### READING RECORDS BOOKS AND HOMEWORK BOOKS SHOULD BE SIGNED EVERY EVENING.

Homework will be 'marked' in a variety of ways depending on the task. Very often, children will be asked to verbalise and share their homework with the class the following day, as homework will be set to check, consolidate and extend children's understanding of current learning objectives, so it is very important that tasks set are completed on time and returned to school.

### 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.

Thank you for your continued support.