



## **St Francis Catholic Primary School Policy for Homework**

We are St Francis Catholic Primary School – A community growing in love for learning and life rooted in God’s love.

***‘A good, well-managed homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning.***

***Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.’***

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account;
- ensure parents/guardians have a clear understanding about expectations from themselves and the pupil;
- improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils;
- extend and support the learning experience via reinforcement and revision;
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;
- provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences;
- encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs;
- at Year 6, to prepare children for secondary transfer.

### **1. Effective homework**

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important as it gives pupils the opportunity to practise at home the tasks covered in class, and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills. It also helps children and young people to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and in adult life.

In primary schools, the focus of homework should be on the important skills of literacy and numeracy. Regular reading at home, especially reading with parents, should be encouraged.

Older pupils in primary schools should be given other tasks such as finding out and preparing information as well as traditional numeracy and literacy tasks. This helps to ease the transfer to secondary schools.

## **2. The Nature of Homework**

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

- The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
- Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
- Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
- It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
- Homework should be set regularly

## **3. How much homework do we set?**

The Government no longer sets homework guidelines and leaves organisation of homework to the discretion of headteachers. At our school, as a general rule, we consider the following times for each year groups to be **maximums**:

Yr 1/2: 1 hour per week.

Yr 3/4: 1.5 hours per week.

Yr 5/6: 2 hours per week.

Reception: Children are encouraged to read to and with parents – not just reading scheme books but a range of picture and storybooks. This should be for no more than ten minutes at a time and should take place every day. It should be an enjoyable time for both parent and child.

From time to time pupils will also bring home other activities. These are designed to develop pupil knowledge of their topic studies and allow them to engage with a range of types of learning. We hope these are enjoyable for the whole family.

## **4. What form does it take?**

In each year group there are some 'daily basics,' which the children should be getting into the habit of doing at home. These include

- reading,
- learning spellings
- learning multiplication and corresponding division facts.

In addition, other tasks can be set each week. These will vary but will be appropriate to the age and ability of the child. It might be word card activities, maths games, research, problem solving, discussing current affairs or tasks related to the other subjects.

The school recognises the importance of experiences through joining clubs such as Cubs, Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies and Guides, as well as football etc. Such activities help to develop the whole child. These "other activities" could form part of the suggested time set for "homework".

## **5. Pupils Who Are Absent**

If a child is absent due to illness it is the policy of the school not to send homework home. The assumption would be that the child was too ill to work.

If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what homework should be completed, how it should be marked and what sort of support is required to help the pupil. This will be done in consultation with the headteacher.

Teachers will not prepare classwork/homework for a child who is being withdrawn from school for a family holiday.

## **The Role of Parents/Carers**

Parents and carers should endeavour to:

- provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which their child can do their homework, usually with an adult,
- make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and check that it is carried out regularly,
- encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework,
- become actively involved in joint activities with their children – and have fun together!

Any problems or queries about homework may be discussed in the first instance with the class teacher. If questions are of a more general nature, parents should contact the head teacher.

## **The children's role.**

- The children are expected to take increasing responsibility for their homework as they move up through the school. The responsibilities they need to develop are:
- Communicating with their parents about their homework.
- Organising themselves - taking the tasks home, completing them and returning them on time.
- Making sure that they understand what is expected of them – asking if they need further explanation or help.
- Listening carefully to instructions.
- Taking care over the tasks and completing them to the best of their ability.

## **The teacher's role**

- To communicate the daily homework expectation through information to parents.
- Provide guidance on how to support their children with the daily tasks.
- Provide children with feedback on their development of reading, spelling and tables through testing or using the skills in classroom activities.
- Set a weekly task, ensuring that it is clearly understood.
- Enable parents to support their children by making expectations clear and giving guidance where necessary.

- Give children up to a week to complete the task, giving a clear expected completion date.

Date agreed:

Review date: