

## Homework Policy

### Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School



**Approved by:** [Name]

**Date:** [Date]

**Last reviewed on:** [Date]

**Next review due  
by:** [Date]

# Homework policy

The school community of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School aims:

- to be a loving Christian family living the values of the Gospel;
- to foster a culture of high expectations enabling all children to fulfil their unique potential;
- to appreciate our natural world as a source of wonder and inspiration;
- to encourage every child to become an independent thinker, and to face challenges with perseverance and resilience;
- to embrace differences and to welcome all in an inclusive, caring, safe environment;
- to work collaboratively with the child at the centre of all we do

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

As a child moves to High School, homework plays a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

We value the time that children have in their own homes with their friends and families and as first educators of their child, we know that parents value the time they spend together. As well as homework, it is vital that a child develops social skills outside of the classroom and we would actively encourage parents to help their children to attend football practice, dance classes, swimming lessons, drama classes and other extra-curricular activities.

## Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in English and Maths
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

## 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 expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.

There are three clear homework-threads woven throughout the school which will maximise learning for your child:

- reading - a few minutes every day is absolutely vital
- spellings - starting as phonics then moving into spellings - should be practised at home
- times tables - from Year 2 onwards, children should be regularly practising their times tables.

### **Recommended Time Allocation**

Homework should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact the school. In line with Government guidelines we do not set a time allocation for homework but rather expect it to support the guidelines set out in this policy.

### **Homework Tasks**

Listed below are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

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

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

We are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much - the homework is not for the parent but for a child to complete.

However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

### **General**

- If children are absent due to illness, we will not send homework home. We would assume 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 should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. **In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head Teacher first.**
- It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time. Holidays during term time should be avoided unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher or target group teacher.

## Homework 2018/2019

<b>Year 6:</b>	weekly spellings;
	Reading (at least 4 times/week);
	Times tables (TTRockstars);
	In addition, after Christmas:
	1 x Grammar test
	1 x Maths test
	1 x Reading Comprehension
<b>Year 5:</b>	weekly spellings;
	Reading (at least 4 times/week);
	Times tables (TTRockstars);
	1 x English
	1 x Maths
<b>Year 4:</b>	weekly spellings;
	Reading (at least 3 times/week);
	Times tables (TTRockstars);
<b>Year 3:</b>	weekly spellings;
	Reading (at least 3 times/week);
	Times tables (TTRockstars);
<b>Year 2:</b>	weekly phonics - if necessary;
	Reading;
	Times tables (TTRockstars); (After Christmas)
<b>Year 1:</b>	weekly phonics;
	Reading;
<b>Reception:</b>	Reading;
	Sharing a Story;
	Phonics;
<b>Nursery:</b>	Swap-a-book

### Review

This policy will be reviewed in the Autumn Term 2019.