

Saint Norbert's Catholic School

Homework Policy

Date Adopted: Autumn 2015
Date of Review: Autumn 2017



Our Mission Statement

St. Norbert's strives to nurture and develop the whole child through a

**Love of God
Love of one another
Love of life itself**

Rationale

Education is a shared responsibility between home and school and the assistance of parents/carers is essential to ensure that pupils perform to the best of their ability. Homework and home learning can provide an excellent opportunity for parents to become actively involved in their children's learning, giving them a window on school work and in helping parents develop a clearer appreciation of their children's strengths and weaknesses. Homework does not just mean formal exercises carried out by children without help from adults; it is the involvement of parents and carers in joint activities, which is most valuable in promoting children's learning. However, as children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skills of independent learning and time management preparing them for secondary school transition.

Article 3: All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

Article 29: Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.

This is the school's policy for the provision of homework to pupils and has been drawn up in accordance with guidance issued by the DFE.

HOMEWORK - A DEFINITION

Homework is defined as *any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.* At St. Norbert's Catholic Primary School we see work done at home as a valuable part of school work.

The aims of the policy are to:

- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work together to enjoy learning experiences and so support pupil's academic progress
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school
- Encourage individual responsibility and independence
- Ensure that parents have a clear understanding about school's expectations of themselves and the pupils.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in **Maths and English.**
- **Enable Year 6 pupils to be 'Secondary Ready'.**
- . Reflect and support areas of learning in all topics and class.
- . Introduce children to new topics that will be taught in future lessons.

What parents should expect of school with regard to homework:

School will ensure that pupils and parents are clear about what they need to do. There are high expectations from teachers that the pupils will complete homework tasks well.

Pupils will receive feedback from the Class Teacher or Teaching Assistant. A range of feedback methods will be used so that the marking workload for the teacher is manageable. Feedback will be given in a way that lets your child know both how well they have done.

A programme of regular homework tasks is set by the class teacher so that all concerned know the basic weekly activities expected. Parents will be informed by class newsletter of the class expectations at the beginning of the academic year.

The amount of homework set by the class teacher will be manageable, with realistic time limits for its completion being given. We will refer to the DfE recommended time allocation for homework when setting tasks. (These times are approximate and are a guide only)

Years R, 1 and 2 1 hour/week

Years 3 and 4 1.5 hours/week

Years 5 and 6 2 hours/week

This includes reading and spelling practice, maths facts and timetables which pupils should aim to carry out daily. Individual children experiencing difficulties or those who need a challenge may be given extra work to complete at home. Homework will be differentiated work linked to the week's learning or individual targets.

There are times in the year when some groups of children may be asked to research a particular project.

No Class is to be set holiday homework, however children are encouraged to keep reading and practising their timetables during these periods. We actively encourage during the summer holidays that pupils participate in the Lincolnshire Libraries: Summer Readathon.

How school see the role of parents in supporting their children with homework:

Homework will be more effective if a reasonably peaceful place is provided for the child to work, and parents should encourage their child to do it when they are fresh. Where written recording is involved it is important that your child sits at a table and uses appropriate tools. E.g. a sharp pencil. Homework should be completed in pencil unless the child is in Year 5 or 6 and they have received a pen licence. It is important for parents to check that homework tasks have been completed neatly and carefully. Presentation of work is very important.

Parents should support the school by letting their children see that they value homework by explaining how it supports their learning and academic progress. Parents should encourage their children by praising them when they have completed the homework and advising them it should be completed carefully.

All reading should be monitored frequently by parents and carers. Parents are expected to provide a written comment in reading record books so that we can

monitor children's progress with reading at home. Unfamiliar words should be explained so that full comprehension is achieved. It is essential that the content is discussed and questions about the text posed so as to assess the child's understanding of the story or information. On occasion it is useful to ask what may have happened next or for the child's opinion of the plot, characters etc... It is important that the partnership between home and school is promoted by parents informing teachers as to how their child coped with the task. A written comment on either the reading log or the piece of work is useful. Where necessary, parents must always remember that they can discuss any problems with their child's teacher at a mutually convenient time.

If for any reason a child will not be able to complete homework parents should write a letter explaining why and time will be made available for the child to complete the task in school.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Setting the right type and amount of homework for children with special educational needs will need careful consideration by the class teacher and coordination with both the Inclusion Manager and parents. The objectives of homework outlined in this policy should apply equally to pupils with special educational needs. Whilst SEN children may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class, it is important that they should do as much in common with other children as possible. Homework tasks for SEN children should:

- have a very clear focus and time-guideline;
- give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed;
- help develop social as well as other skills where necessary;
- be varied - and not purely written assignments;
- be manageable for teachers.

Signed _____

(Headteacher)

Signed _____

(for and on behalf of the Governing body)

Date _____