



ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



OUT OF SCHOOL LEARNING POLICY STATEMENT JANUARY 2012 **(PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS HOMEWORK POLICY)**

ST. HELEN'S MISSION STATEMENT

**RESPECT YOURSELF,
RESPECT EVERYONE IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY,
RESPECT EVERYONE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY,
RESPECT EVERYONE IN OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY
BUT MOST OF ALL, RESPECT GOD OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN**

The Governing Body of St. Helen's Catholic Primary School adopted this Policy in January 2012.

RATIONALE FOR SETTING HOMEWORK/OUT OF SCHOOL LEARNING

As stated in the Home/School Partnership Agreement, we expect Parent/Carers to take an interest in their child's progress and support their child in complying with the homework policy.

We introduced a new method of homework in 2010/11. The principle behind this new method is to encourage Parent/Carers/family members to enjoy learning alongside their child, helping their child develop their basic skills and sometimes producing joint family projects. This is part of our renewed focus to help Parent/Carers understand how they can support their child further with their learning.

We hope with this new approach to homework/ out of school learning, that:

- Parent/Carers/family members will be more aware of their child's skill level and can help to develop their skills further.
- Pupils can investigate further any personal interest related to the topic

The timings for completion have been carefully designed - specifically to allow flexibility, in order to fit in with modern family life – We also want families to know that as a school we value:

- outside clubs such as Brownies,
- their child having relaxation time,
- time being available to practise musical instruments,
- family activities which give pupils valuable learning experiences etc

AIMS

- That the child's skills, knowledge and confidence will continue to develop – through the practice and transference of skills learnt in school.
- That they will practise and consolidate basic skills.
- That the child will have a positive attitude and enthusiasm towards their learning and have pride in what s/he has produced which will often be individualised as an end product.
- To develop pupils' imaginative and creative skills by giving choices on how to present their findings.
- To develop good work habits, self-discipline, responsibility and effective time management skills.
- Homework activities will be accessible to all pupils in the class and adapted to ensure accessibility. Support will be offered when needed through review sessions, homework club etc. Challenge will also be built in for more able and talented pupils.
- Pupils will be happy to share their work with their peers.
- Pupils will show respect when viewing the work of others and further their own learning from viewing what others have produced.

ST HELEN'S APPROACH TO HOMEWORK - OUR GOOD PRACTICE

EYFS

- Encourage the sharing of reading books
- learning key words
- practising phonics
- Maths games at different levels
- Development of independence skills such as practise doing up buttons, putting on coats etc
- Practical application of learning such as looking for specific things at home or in their local environment which they have been investigating in class.
- The use of Education city – individualised learning and support

Ideas are often shared in the EYFS newsletter which is produced every 2nd week.

KS1

- Encourage the sharing of reading books
- practising phonics
- Maths games at different levels
- Topic webs giving suggested areas for further investigation related to the topic being studied in class – pupils have free choice of which areas they would like to investigate further.
- The use of Education city – individualised learning and support
- Talk homework

KS2

- Encourage regular individual reading and the sharing of books with family members
- Weekly Maths activities
- The use of Education city – individualised learning and support
- Talk homework
- Topic webs – same theme as in class – a variety of tasks covering different learning styles/areas of the curriculum – discussed when given out and regular review sessions to give more support. Some activities must be completed and then it is free choice from the other activities.
- Specific support prior to Sats for year 6 pupils – e.g. pupils are given revision guides for Maths and English for their own independent revision, independent writing tasks etc are encouraged.

All homework/out of school learning tasks must be accompanied by clear instructions for Parent/Carers including when the review dates are and final completion date.

A brief summary of the basic skills being covered in English and Maths will be shared with the Parent/Carers each half term.

ROLE OF PARENT/CARERS

- To discuss and agree with their child – the best time, location, level of support needed to complete individual tasks and how long to spend on each activity.
- To give advice on how best to concentrate and limit the distractions e.g. TV, phones etc
- To make sure the child is not over tired or hungry
- For the Parent/Carers to have a positive attitude to the tasks and give lots of praise when due.
- When finding information on the internet, encourage their child to reword the information into their own words and check their understanding.
- To encourage their child to take responsibility for the completion of task and its return to school when complete.
- To encourage their child to speak to their teacher themselves if they are unsure what to do with a homework activity.
- Homework should never cause stress within a family and if it is then the Parent/Carers need to discuss this with the class teacher.
- To become actively involved in joint activities with their child and have fun learning together.
- With the younger pupils, it is important the Parent/Carers play the maths games with their child and regularly listen to them reading aloud and discuss the book.

- Where possible, to take their child to the library, museums etc to widen their source of information and to enrich the overall learning experience.

If Parent/Carers have any concerns or need further support about the homework, they should initially contact the class teacher.

FEEDBACK/CELEBRATION OF HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

- Immediate verbal feedback is important and pupils are encouraged to bring in their work at any point during the topic.
- It is important the Parent/Carers and pupils know that we value what they have produced and pupils should be presented with a certificate at the end of each topic which includes a personal comment related to their individual work.
- Sharing their work with their peers is an important part of this process, including the process of peer assessment when the pupils are mature enough to take part in this type of assessment.
- Putting end products on display for all to enjoy.
- Sharing with other members of staff e.g. Subject Leaders, KS Leaders, Headteacher etc.

**Policy written by E.Mouchel after consultation with Staff,
Governors and some Parent/Carers
January 2012**