



St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy

Homework Policy



*For I know the plans I have for you;
plans to give you hope and a future – Jeremiah 29:11*

<i>Gospel Values</i>	<i>Justice, Integrity</i>
<i>Catholic Social Teaching</i>	<i>Family and community</i>
<i>British Values</i>	<i>Respect, Individual Liberty</i>
<i>School Values</i>	<i>Knowledge, Understanding</i>

Approved by: Patricia Hurd

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Our Mission and Values

Guided by Jesus' love and example, we use our gifts to grow, pray and learn as a community; united in faith.

For I know the plans I have for you; plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

At St John Fisher, we recognise that for children to achieve their full potential, our Mission Statement, the Gospel values, and the teaching of the Catholic Church need to be modelled and defined consistently by all staff, so the children understand how they relate to their own lives at school, home and in the community.

The Gospel Values are: Love, Forgiveness, Compassion, Hope, Gratitude, Service and Justice.

Central to our school is making the Catholic faith the foundation of our culture ensuring that children respect themselves and others, realising that we are all unique and made in the image and likeness of God.

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school.

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, therefore, from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed, we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.

One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning. Homework also plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. We believe that while homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school. This policy seeks to ensure a healthy balance between school work and free time.

Aims and Objectives

Part of our mission at St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy is to create good relationships between home and school. We believe that a strong partnership between school and home is at the heart of successful education. Regular, homework can:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- help pupils develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own and preparing them for the requirements of secondary education;
- promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;

- help children develop good work habits for the future;
- provide a contact for pupil / parent interaction;
- help parents gain an insight into their child's schoolwork.

Types of Homework

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, the children are encouraged to read as often as they can and learn their letter sounds. When appropriate, they will be given project-based homework that will link to wider areas of the curriculum.

In Year 1 and 2, the children will read at least 3 times a week to an adult, have spellings to practise and to further develop their rapid recall of number facts, using NumBots.

In Year 3, 4, 5 and 6, the children will continue to read at least 3 times a week, have spellings to practise and work on their times table rapid recall, using Times Table Rockstars.

These 3 areas are vital to children's learning and access to the rest of the National curriculum.

Class teachers will also set a project once a term, linked to a Geography, History and Science topic that the children are studying. It will include opportunities to further develop the wider curriculum too.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework for pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to their Special Educational Needs support plan for guidance.

The Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents have any concerns or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Equal Opportunities

All teaching and non-teaching staff at St John Fisher are responsible for ensuring that all pupils, irrespective of gender, ability, ethnic origin and social circumstances, have access to the whole curriculum and make the greatest possible progress. All children have equal access to homework. Day to day monitoring of the Homework Policy and the provision of equal opportunities is the responsibility of the class teacher.

Monitoring

A class record is kept of children completing homework tasks. All homework is marked according to our marking policy. The quality of completed homework is monitored and reviewed regularly in consultation with pupils and parents, if necessary.

Celebration

Considerable emphasis is placed upon acknowledging and praising good work, for example, awards can be given for homework in 'Gather and Celebrate' on a Friday. House points are also given via www.pupilrewardpoints.co.uk to recognise pupils' efforts. Parents are encouraged to praise their children as much as possible.

Deadlines and Non-completion of Homework

Spellings will be handed out every Friday and checked the following Friday. Reading diaries, NumBots, and TTRockstars will also be checked every Friday.

We do expect that all children complete their homework on time and to the best of their abilities. Where homework has not been completed or handed in on Friday, it is expected to be brought in the following Monday. Should a second instance occur during the term, it is still expected to be brought in the following Monday and a letter is sent home for parents to sign and acknowledge this. Should a third instance occur within the same term, another letter is sent home and children will be expected to complete the homework at lunchtime.

Monitoring and Review

All staff will monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy regularly.

Parents' views will be sought on a yearly basis about such matters as homework through the completion of a questionnaire.

Our governing body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent.