

ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL



Homework Policy

**Learning and Loving
Caring and Sharing
through
The message of Christ**



St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a happy community where we are loved and valued as individuals.

As Disciples of Jesus, we learn together, pray together and celebrate together as one in God's love.

Together with parents/carers, the parish and the wider community, we prepare our children to live and build God's kingdom on earth.

Introduction

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School Primary School we believe that homework is a valuable opportunity for children to consolidate or to refine their learning and to develop independent research skills at an age appropriate level. We recognise and value the importance of quality 'family time' for all children and therefore ensure that homework set is always purposeful and plenty of time is allocated for its completion.

We feel that it is very important for children to establish a healthy balance between their school work, homework, after school clubs and a social life, in order that they become healthy, confident individuals. We recognise that after a long and very busy day in school, all children need time to relax and spend time with their family.

We recognise our effective partnership with parents and value their contribution when supporting their child to complete homework tasks. Parents are always fully informed about the nature of their child's homework and the Seesaw App is often used to ensure clear and effective communication.

What does research say?

- 1. Overall, homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning.***
- 2. Parents can have a positive effect on homework completion and help children to develop effective learning habits.***
- 3. The broader evidence base suggests that short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework.***

Education Endowment Trust (EEF) Teaching & Learning Toolkit
6th December, 2018- Homework (Primary)

“Certainly I think we get over obsessed with homework. Five to ten minutes has the same effect of one hour to two hours. The worst thing you can do with homework is give kids projects. The best thing you can do is to reinforce something you've already learnt.”

John Hattie

Our Aims

- To ensure that homework consolidates, reinforces or supports learning within school.
- To revisit/ practise previous learning.
- To support the development of positive attitudes to extended learning beyond school including self-motivation and perseverance.
- To involve parents as partners in the learning process and to further enhance effective home/school links

Examples of homework set in Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2

- Practising key word recognition
- Reading- scheme books and books of own choice
- Practising number facts/ times tables
- Practising phonics/ spelling patterns
- Conducting cross- curricular research- based tasks linked to Big Questions e.g. Find out about..., What do you already know about? Why does...?
- Pupils may use mind maps, ICT Apps such as Seesaw/ Flipgrid to present their learning.