



All Souls' Catholic
PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

September 2014

All Souls' Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers to support the children's learning. At All Souls', we believe that homework plays an important part of a child's development and are committed to providing meaningful learning opportunities for children at home. We do however acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Homework should not prevent children from taking part in activities of various out-of-school clubs or pursuing other interests.

Homework at All Souls' will therefore focus on reading, spelling, times tables, and tasks to consolidate or extend understanding in areas of the school curriculum, particularly maths and English skills.

This policy further support the home/school agreement which is issued and signed at the beginning of each academic year.

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To develop and reinforce the effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers.
- To provide an opportunity for parents to become a part of their child's education through support, supervision and encouragement.
- To increase parental understanding of the curriculum and purpose of work that is being covered in school.
- Create a consistent, progressive and whole school approach to using homework as a tool to extend children's development and provide challenge.
- To encourage pupils to develop personal responsibility for life-long learning.

Purpose

At All Souls' we believe that homework:

- Is an opportunity for children to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding across the curriculum.
- Can give pupils the chance to access a range of resources that may not be as accessible within school.
- Can significantly contribute to the development of children's fundamental reading, spelling and numeracy skills.
- Should be designed to increasingly encourage self management and independence in learning.
- Should have equal value to work which is completed during school time.

- Should be set appropriately and proportionately to the age and abilities of the pupils.
- Should not be a burden to teachers or parents.

Types of homework

Reading

Children across the school will be issued with a reading book, appropriate to both their chronological and reading age, which is to be read at home. This should take place as regularly as is possible. The expectation is that children should aim to read for an average of 10 minutes per evening, although we do appreciate that for many reasons, it may not be possible to read 'every' evening. Many children will be reading scribed books which are graded by difficulty, although our ultimate aim is for children to be 'free-reading' books of their choice and developing their own preference and tastes in genres and authors. Regardless of reading ability, it is important that every child has the opportunity to be supported by an adult or more advanced reader at home when reading. In the home/school agreement parents are asked to support their child with reading at least every other day throughout KS1 and at least once or twice per week throughout KS2. The amount of support a child needs will depend greatly: some children may need support in sounding out or understanding the meaning of words whereas others will benefit more from discussing the plot or language used in the book. Children are issued with a record book/sheet which should be used to record what is being read and the frequency. This record book should be kept up-to-date, signed by a parent and returned to school weekly, as determined by the class teacher, so that a school adult can review what a child has read. Parents should that in signing the reading record, they are confirming that their child has read and understands the texts listed.

Spelling

From KS1 children will receive weekly spelling homework. Children will be sent home weekly spellings to be learned for the following week. The spellings will be differentiated and are based on the schools phonics and spelling programme. Children KS2 are taught spellings weekly, in accordance with the school's progression through spelling document. Children will be given either a list of words or spelling rule to learn each week, appropriate to their age and ability. Children will be provided an opportunity to practise their spellings, in school, each day, but it is expected that they will spend an average of at least 5 minutes per night learning and revising their spellings. Children's spellings are recorded in their spelling book as well as their weekly tests. Parents are expected to routinely check their child's test scores and sign/initial next to these to indicate that they have seen them.

Times tables

Times tables are a fundamental building block of basic mathematic skills, and a knowledge of times tables facts is crucial to children's success across the breadth of the Numeracy curriculum. In KS2, therefore, children are expected to learn and practise their rapid recall of facts from times tables each day at home. Rapid recall is an instantaneous recall, from memory, which does not rely on answers being calculated or thought through. Parents/carers should be regularly testing their child's knowledge of facts as well as revising previously covered facts to ensure that recall of these remains sharp. Class teachers are

responsible for letting children and parents know what times tables they are currently working towards securing.

Consolidation/extension tasks

In KS2, children will be routinely set tasks to consolidate or extend their learning in aspects of the curriculum currently being taught. Most of these will be linked to work covered in English and maths although, as and when appropriate tasks linked to other aspects of the curriculum, e.g. science, geography or history units, could be set. Tasks will be differentiated to ensure that they meet the needs of each child. In most instances, children will receive one or two pieces of work weekly, each of which should take around 20 minutes to complete. Longer tasks may be set, but on these occasions, children will be given more time to complete them.

Expectations

- It is expected that all homework holds the same value as work which is completed within school. Children are provided a homework book, in which all of their written homework should be completed. Homework is expected to be completed with care, following the same standards of presentation and handwriting as with all curriculum work. Teachers are also expected to mark homework in accordance with the school's marking policy.
- Homework of all forms should be appropriate to both the age and ability of the pupils, differentiated accordingly and providing high levels of challenge and interest.
- Children are expected to take responsibility for their homework and where they have been absent from school, it is their responsibility to ensure that they are aware of any homework tasks that they have missed including weekly spellings.
- Teachers are to ensure that pupils are taking home appropriate reading books and to monitor the frequency that children are reading at home.
- If parents choose to take holidays during term time, teachers are not required or expected to set work for children to complete during this time.
- Children who fail to complete homework, or submit work which does not meet a teacher's expectations will be asked to attend homework club that week to repeat the work. If this facility is not available, children will be asked to complete the work during break/lunch times.
- It is an expectation that all children are reading at home. If a child is not reading and recording the amount as specified in this policy, they will be asked to stay in at play / lunchtimes and read to make up the required time.

Homework club

A homework club is run weekly during lunchtime (day dependent upon availability of staff), for any children who either haven't had an opportunity to complete their homework at home, or who require any additional assistance, beyond the help provided by their class teacher. In some instances, children may be asked to attend homework club if they have failed to complete a piece of homework, or it falls below the standard expected. Where a

child regularly submits homework late, they also may be asked to complete it at homework club.

Monitoring and review

- It is the duty of the senior leadership team to monitor and review all homework, as well as this policy.
- This policy should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that homework continues to be purposeful and meets the changing needs of our children and government requirements.
- As part of the monitoring and review cycle, the views of children, parents and teachers with regard to homework will be sought and considered on an annual basis – and more frequently if required.