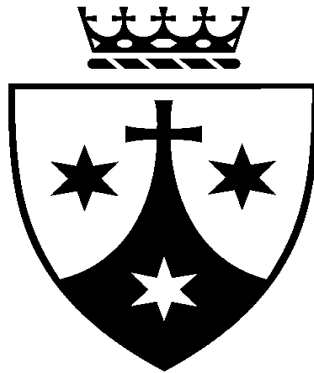


**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHALFONT ST PETER**



Learning to do our best with Jesus

Homework Policy

Date approved:	Curriculum Committee 30.04.10
Date reviewed:	Spring 2010
Date for next review:	

Aims

Homework is set in order to aid each child's progress towards achieving his or her full potential with the assistance, support and co-operation of parents. We set a little homework on a regular basis and on an increasing ratio, from Reception class to Year 6, to prepare children adequately for the demands and responsibilities of secondary school.

Objectives

To provide an enjoyable and purposeful supplement to class work.

To provide opportunity for the child to practice what has been learnt in class, including the development of the basic skills e.g. tables, spellings, independent research skills etc.

To support parents, in the spiritual and academic development of their child.

To provide a practical opportunity for children to take responsibility for recording and organising their own workload.

What is homework?

Homework is not necessarily written work. It is any task that a child is asked to complete at home. It may consist of reading, learning by heart and reinforcement of class work, research and project work or further practice of skills learnt in class.

Good primary school practice requires that we give credence to other developmental needs of the child. We appreciate the value of extra curricular activities, (sports, music, dancing, drama, the uniformed groups, other hobbies etc.) We recognise the demands made on pupils in Year 3 as they undertake the Sacramental Preparation programmes and in setting homework we allow space for these. A well balanced healthy child should be encouraged to develop their particular interests in many of these activities in their own time.

Should parents wish their children to spend more time in structured academic work, they will find much suitable material in most local bookshops and libraries. As with all other matters relating to children, teachers are available to discuss homework with parents.

As the primary educators of their children, parents are encouraged to support and reinforce the shared expectations by as many different means as possible. Learning is a shared responsibility between children parents and staff. Children are encouraged and challenged in their learning as they aim for excellence. In order to achieve this goal we as a school must work together with parents and guardians as a partnership expanding the curriculum, extending it to the home and building on experiences shared outside school.

Staff are expected to work towards this aim by:

- Providing a range of homework tasks and activities to consolidate learning in class.
- Ensure the children have a clear understanding of the tasks involved and common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually according to their ability.
- Communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress, projects and topics to be studied and developed and individual targets which have been negotiated.

Pupils are expected to work towards this aim by:

- Making full use of all the opportunities they are presented with.
- Tackling home tasks promptly and with a positive attitude.
- Taking pride in presentation and content, acknowledging the high personal standard expected.
- Being organised so that necessary books and equipment are not left at school
- Taking responsibility for handing in the completed task on the agreed day.

Parents are expected to work towards the schools aims by:

- Providing suitable quiet surroundings i.e. not in front of the television.
- Encouraging younger family members to play quieter games if in the same room.
- Encouraging children to persevere with a task even if it seems daunting at first, and giving support if necessary.
- Giving due importance to non-written tasks such as hearing reading and assisting in the learning of times tables and spellings.
- Keep the staff informed of any changes in the child's circumstances which may affect their learning.
- Parents having high expectations of their child's work will check and sign it before it is presented at school.

GUIDELINES

Homework is given purely if it provides positive reinforcement of work done in school. It is seen as a definite need and not as a time filler. R.E. homework is set on a regular basis reflecting our Mission /statement and the spiritual development of children. It may be topic based or linked to the liturgical year.

Homework is considered an integral part of the curriculum. It enriches and consolidates, develops research skills and cultivates minds to nurture the seeds of knowledge, therefore homework, when set, is compulsory. For this discipline to be of value it is important that work be handed in on time.

Homework is not usually set during half term holidays, or the Christmas, Easter or Summer holidays. These diaries are seen as personal to the child and will not be marked. Reading however should continue throughout the holiday periods to maintain progress.

The average amount of time spent on homework each evening, including tasks such as; reading, learning tables etc. should be approximately:

Early Years	10 minutes
KS1 Years 1 & 2	10 – 20 minutes
KS2 Years 3 & 4	20 – 30 minutes
Year 5	30 – 40 minutes
Year 6	40 – 60 minutes

Parents will be advised at the beginning of the school year of the homework routines and expectations of the class teacher, which will reflect the maturity of the children. They will also be given details of ways in which they may be asked to assist the child at home.

In order to allow for the child's other activities as much time as possible will always be provided to complete homework (except where class work has been sent home to be finished because of a lack of application on the part of the child).

Early Years/Key Stage 1

It is expected that every child does some reading every night, sometimes as a “sharing” experience with an adult. Reading material may include fiction, non-fiction, annuals, comics etc. It should be a personal choice from books at home or from the local library. It is important that parents monitor children’s reading.

Homework will usually involve the practice of basic skills, e.g. reading, learning the order of the alphabet, learning prayers, spellings, spelling sentences and other written homework, mental arithmetic and handwriting. There will be many times when your child will be asked to collect and bring in topic related items or books for contribution to projects. Specific research tasks may be set from Year 2.

Key Stage 2

It is expected that every child does some reading every night, sometimes as a “sharing” experience with an adult. Reading material may include fiction, non-fiction, annuals, comics etc. It should be a personal choice from books at home or from the Tree Tops. It is important that parents monitor children’s reading.

Homework will also include written mathematics, practising mental strategies such as Times tables, number facts etc to support problem solving. Children

will have homework reflecting all curriculum subjects over the course of the year.

Research work or special project assignments may be set to reinforce topics being studied in school. These may well be ongoing over a longer period of time, emphasis will be on research skills, presentation, illustration, time management and punctuality.