



HOMEWORK POLICY

To love, to serve and learn.

We are a school family journeying together in God's love.

We serve each other to achieve our best.

We learn in fun and creative ways,
respecting everyone's gifts

Introduction

Homework is anything that 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 children's learning.

Purpose of homework

The Government believes that there is enormous advantage in children spending regular periods of time, on different learning activities devised by schools as part of a homework programme which supports the work they do in school. Homework should be part of an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school.

Regular, well-planned homework can:

- enable children 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;
- enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- 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;
- help parents gain an insight into their child's schoolwork.
- enable work to be personalised to the interest of individual children.

Homework should never:

- become a source of anxiety
- cause conflict in the home or conflict between home and school
- encourage children to copy material
- be done by parents.

Consideration will be given to the child's ability when homework is set. Children with additional needs will be given work that takes into account their individual needs and targets.

Children who are more able may be given either open-ended tasks or ones that are more challenging than those given to the rest of the class.

In some cases, no written work may be needed as part of the task set. Instead it is acceptable to ask children to find out information, to watch a particular programme or complete some other speaking and listening activities.

It is vital that parent's support their child's education by supporting our homework policy. However, if children become distraught or defiant at home when asked to complete their homework, parents shouldn't battle it out with them - but inform their class teacher who will deal with it in school. **There may not be an opportunity to catch up with this work in school.**

Types of Homework

Reading at home is the most important homework tasks we ask you to support your child with. The importance of regular reading at home cannot be emphasised enough. Reading impacts on all aspects of your child's learning. **Phonics based reading books are changed on a Thursday throughout EYFS and KS1 and link to RWI.**

As a school, we are moving away from paper-based homework tasks to online activities supported by Seesaw. We still expect work to be returned on time and to be of a high standard, regardless of how it is set.

In addition to reading we see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- practising spellings, number work/tables -linked to activities covered in class - use 'Spelling Shed' log in at home
- Practise handwriting - use 'Letter-join' log in at home
- preparation or planning for a piece of writing
- completing an independent learning project
- completing a problem-solving activity
- reading with a parent
- finishing off work from class
- learning parts for an assembly
- learning number facts (times tables / TT Rockstars)
- memorising a poem
- research using the internet (school cannot be held responsible for the content of web sites not recommended by teachers)

KS1 teachers and all teaching assistants deliver our Read, Write Inc Phonics Programme in small groups and they may also set phonics homework occasionally. This would be for consolidation of learning or for practise of the sounds the children have been learning.

Homework is set throughout the school from Reception.

Class 1 (EYFS):

- Reading at home for **at least 10 minutes every day**. Reading books will be changed on a Thursday. Please ensure reading diaries are signed every time your child reads at home and children should bring in their book bags every day.
- Phonics sounds cards - if applicable
- Practical task set on Seesaw - Set Friday for Wednesday

Class 2 (Y1/2):

Reading: Reading at home for **at least 10 minutes every day**.

Other homework is set on a Monday and completed on Seesaw

- Spellings to be practised daily - weekly spelling test on a Friday.

Children may also be given unfinished work to complete at home in addition to their homework.

Class 3 (Y3/4):

Reading: Reading at home for **at least 10 minutes every day**. Reading books should be brought into school every day and can be changed anytime - when finished. Reading Diaries will be checked regularly.

Spellings -Thursday for following Tuesday.

Maths and / or times tables - test on Fridays.

During the Spring Term, maths homework will be learning times tables. Children will practise on Times Tables Rockstars three times a week for 10 minutes each night on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Other homework (related to class work) may be given. Children may also be given unfinished work to complete at home **in addition** to their homework.

Class 4 (Y5/6):

Reading: Reading at home for **at least 10 minutes for a minimum of 3 times a week** and 2 sentences about what has been read are written in reading diaries. Reading books should be brought into school every day and can be changed anytime - when finished. Reading Diaries will be checked regularly.

- Maths and / or English - Friday for Wednesday

Other homework (related to class work) may be given.

Children may also be given unfinished work to complete at home in addition to their homework.

Whole School:

The majority of homework is now online using Seesaw as our preferred platform. Letter-join, Spelling Shed and TT Rockstars are also online. The children have their own logins for these.

When homework is in books, children are expected to use pencil for mathematics and can use either pencil or a blue handwriting pen for writing.

A register of returned and completed homework is kept by each class teacher.

Holiday Homework

Teachers may give practical tasks or projects for the children to complete during school holidays.

Y6 children will be given revision homework during February Half Term and Easter holidays.

Feedback to children

Homework may be marked together as a class, and any misconceptions or errors addressed as a learning experience for the whole class.

Homework will always be checked, on occasions an extended comment may be made. Children should be given time to read comments and respond themselves.

We respectfully ask that parents:

- provide a suitable space where children can study, write and read without interruption
- encourage good working habits and routines around the completion of homework
- let us know if any problems emerge with the completion of homework
- ensure that the homework is returned promptly on the appointed day.
- Sign reading diaries when necessary.

Unfinished or homework not returned:

Children need to take responsibility for their homework from KS1, both in the completion of it and for remembering to return it to school.

However, we do realise that on occasion events or circumstances at home mean that a child has been unable to complete their homework on time. If this happens, we ask that parents / carers inform the class teacher with a note, email or phone call to the office, to explain.

Not returning homework

If there is a regular pattern of unreturned work, there is scale of time a child will be expected to stay in at morning playtime and complete it. Staff will follow this up by informing parents in order to get their support and work in partnership regarding their child's 'home' learning.

Morning playtime is 15 minutes long.

Reception: Not applicable.

Year 1/2: Five minutes.

Year 3-6: Ten minutes.

All the children will be allowed to collect their snack and drink and have it whilst finishing their homework at morning playtime.

Parents will be informed by:

A chat with parents / carers, either in person or over the telephone and/or an appointment made with the class teacher to discuss any difficulties.

Homework takes time to plan and prepare and it always has a purpose. Parents are expected to support the teachers in every way to help the children do their homework and return it to school on time.

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

Other ways parents / carers can support their child's education:

- encourage their children to read widely and take them to the library
- a family visit to a local museum;
- playing games which develop their physical skills and taking them swimming
- ensuring that children have opportunities to colour, paint, draw, stick, glue, etc.

Equal Opportunities:

All teaching and non-teaching staff at St Edward's Catholic Primary School are responsible for ensuring that all children, 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 and review:

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school Homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues.

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

Policy review:

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Reviewed and agreed by staff September 2024

Ratified by Governors: October 2024