



Homework Policy



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1 Introduction

- 1.1** At St Bartholomew's homework is seen as an enhancement to the curriculum taught in school and an opportunity to reinforce concepts and skills learnt. It is a way of promoting a home/school partnership in education which benefits children's progress and attainment. Homework is a direct link for parents to monitor and be actively involved in the child's learning. It also enables pupils to research topics in advance.

2 Rationale for homework

- 2.1** Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire, develop and revise the skills of independent learning for life long learning.
- 2.2** Homework can play 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. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1** The aims and objectives of homework are:
- to support pupils in making maximum progress in their academic and personal development;
 - to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
 - to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
 - to extend aspects of the curriculum;
 - to provide educational experiences only possible outside of school;
 - to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
 - to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Types of homework

- 4.1** Homework is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning and will reflect the learning taking place in school. Children are set one main piece of homework each week. In addition, a topic grid, each half term, provides ideas of other topic activities that are optional. Children may complete none, some or all of these activities as they wish.
- 4.2** A great variety of types of topic homework activities are set throughout school, (see Appendix 1) following a clearly outlined routine.
- 4.3** Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised following standard school procedures – eg Head Teacher sticker, house points etc. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.
- 4.4** We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.
- 4.5** The homework procedures for each year group are communicated to the children and parents in the termly projection of work letters.

5 Amount of homework

- 5.1** As children move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. We expect children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 to spend no more than half an hour doing one homework task. We expect children in Years 3 and 4 to spend no more than 45 minutes per homework task, and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend no more than one hour per task. Parents and carers must use their own discretion in applying these guidelines to their own children.

6 Inclusion and homework

- 6.1** We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are age-appropriate to the ability of the class, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We welcome help and guidance from the child's family or others to enable the child to gain maximum benefit from the homework task. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

7 The role of parents

- 7.1** 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 and when they feel it to be necessary and to 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, appropriate equipment, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by actively supporting the work that their child is doing.
- 7.2** Parents are invited to check and comment on the completed work if they wish.
- 7.3** If parents have any questions about an individual piece of homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Any general comments or questions related to homework and school procedures should be directed to the Head Teacher.

8 Use of ICT

8.1 The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, we expect pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

8.2 There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet. However, if a child does not have access to the internet, alternative resources or learning materials will be provided. The child may use the ICT facilities in school with permission of their Class Teacher.

8.3 Children may have the option of completing some homework activities on the VLE.

9 Monitoring and review

9.1 The Senior and Middle Management Teams (SMT + MLT) are responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. The SMT uses this time to inspect samples of the children's work and of the teachers' homework planning and materials used. The specific focus of the monitoring is recorded on a monitoring sheet.

9.2 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.

9.3 The completion and return of homework is monitored during the year. Children are expected to complete the one main piece of homework set each week. The topic items are optional. Any children from Year 2 to Year 6 who have not completed the weekly set homework task will be expected to complete this at lunchtime in school supervised by their teacher or a member of the SLT.

9.4 Parents and carers have the opportunity to comment on the homework policy whenever they wish or through parental questionnaires and surveys.

9.5 This policy will be reviewed in three years, or earlier if necessary.

Signed: S. Campbell

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