



Homework Policy

*'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible to you'
(Matthew, 17:20)*

GDPR

Data will be processed to be in line with the requirements and protections set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

Policy to be reviewed every 2 years

Reviewed by A Clark - October 2025

Reviewed by Governors: not applicable governor reference

Next review date: Autumn 2027



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 oversee and be actively involved in their child/ren's learning. It can also enable pupils to research topics further and/ or in advance.

2 Rationale for homework

- 2.1 Homework, including regular reading, is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's learning and progress. 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, particularly opportunities to read.

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 and 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. We would not wish homework to prevent children from taking part in the activities and experiences various out-of-school clubs can offer and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils.

We believe children develop their interests and skills to the full, only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside, as well as inside, of school. Hence, when set, we aim to give a reasonable timeframe for task(s) completion.

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 a more 'independent learner';
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to extend and/ or enhance 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.

- 4.2 Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised following standard school practice - see 'Marking and Feedback' policy - including 'House Points' (for written homework) and teacher praise/ comments.

There may be issues arising from the work, across the class, which the teacher will follow up on in lesson time.

- 4.3 We are mindful that children have individual learning styles and may interpret and/ or wish to apply themselves to the tasks differently. Some homework is therefore designed to enable this; others may be based upon and require a particular approach.
- 4.4 The homework procedures for each year group are communicated to pupils and their parent(s)/ carer(s) at the beginning, and over the course of, each academic year. Please ask though if you are unsure.

5 Amount of homework

- 5.1 As children move through the school, typically we increase the amount of homework and challenge that we give the children.
- 5.2 We would expect children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 to spend no more than half an hour doing one homework task. We ask 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 activity.
- 5.3 Parents and carers must use their own discretion in applying these guidelines for their own child/ren. Please make us aware if and where this has become stressful to manage and support at home.
- 5.4 Cross-curricular learning
Children are set one main piece of homework each week, English and/ or Maths focused. Once each half-term, this will be replaced with a 'topic', thematic-based, task(s) linked with the learning at the time; providing pupils with a more open-ended opportunity to explore something more fully - at the beginning or end of a unit of work - and present their ideas and express themselves in their own way.

5.5 HOMEWORK EXPECTATION

English and Maths (see above [5.4] above for wider curriculum learning)

As well as reading, as much as possible...

EYFS	Weekly phonics homework - from the start of the year. When all sounds (phonemes) are taught, by the end of the Spring term, a weekly maths homework will then be introduced.
Year 1 and 2	One main piece of homework each week, alternating between Maths and English. From Spring, optional 'Numbots' and/ or 'TT Rockstars' will <u>also</u> be provided.
Year 3 and 4	One main piece of homework each week, with either a maths or English focus, plus weekly on-line times-tables and a spelling activity.
Year 5 and 6	Homework is set on a Monday and expected to be completed by the following Monday. Maths - fortnightly on www.maths.co.uk ; we still encourage children to

	<p>practise times tables as much as possible - https://trockstars.com logins are still accessible.</p> <p>English - fortnightly; this will be a sheet stuck into their homework books;</p> <p>Spelling - set weekly in the form of a spelling worksheet. We also encourage children to play the online games on EdShed.com - weekly words are tested in class on a Friday;</p> <p>Reading – please aim for at least x3/ week</p> <p>Year 6 specific - after Feb half term 7 weeks SATS-based Homework</p>
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5.5 **Accessing homework - Year 5 and 6**

All children have a homework book and a unique login for 'Its Learning', where they can access the topic homework.

The link for this is <https://stbartholomews.itslearning.com> but can also be reached on our school website: St. Bartholomew's CofE Primary School > Home (st-bartholomews.leics.sch.uk) > Click on the Learning tab > followed by E-safety and Remote Learning.

Children have the choice of whether to upload topic homework online or to complete a piece of work physically to bring in, either in or separate from, their homework book.

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/ year group, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way (see [4.4] above). We welcome help and guidance from the child's family or others to enable the child to gain maximum benefit from the homework task.

6.2 We value and celebrate the cultural diversity and different backgrounds of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

7 **The role of family**

7.1 Parents, carers and sometimes wider family, have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents/ carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their child/ren as and when they feel it necessary, providing them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best - ideally a calm, quiet space. As well as a good working space at home, parents can support their child by providing appropriate equipment, potentially enabling them to visit the library and by actively supporting the work that their child is doing.

7.2 Parents/ Carers are invited to check and comment on the completed work if they wish.

7.3 If family have any questions about a specific 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 IT

- 8.1 The use of IT 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. Children are not necessarily achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.
- 8.2 We acknowledge, however, that there are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents are advised, of course, to always supervise their child's access to the Internet. If a child does not have access to enable completion of a particular task(s), 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 In Key Stage 2 (Year 3 - 6) Children may have the option of completing some homework activities via 'It's Learning'. More recent curriculum subscriptions (e.g. Spelling Shed, TTRockstars), enable us to set homework activities effectively and very 'linked-in' with the learning taking place in school. However, we are also mindful of helping to support parents/ carers with managing reduced screen-time.

9 Monitoring and review

- 9.1 The Senior and Middle Leadership Teams (SLT + MLT) are responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy. They will monitor homework planning and the materials used. The specific focus of the monitoring may be recorded as part of the review and/ or including any subsequent revision.
- 9.2 It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and monitor the school's 'Homework' policy. This is done by the committee for 'Curriculum and Standards'.
- 9.3 Pupil's completion and return of homework is monitored over the course of the year. Children are expected to complete their one main piece of homework set each week.
- 9.4 For years 2 and above, where homework is not completed, year groups or phases will seek to support pupils in school time. For our younger pupils, this may be implemented on a more individual basis, where family circumstances cannot enable or support a child's home-working. In Key Stage 2, this may then include offering completion in the form of a group or 'club' setting.
- 9.5 Parents and carers have the opportunity to comment on the homework policy whenever they wish or through parental questionnaires and surveys.
- 9.6 This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if felt necessary.