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Homework Policy

Policy Reference:	H1
Responsibility:	Curriculum and Standards Committee
Reviewed by:	Mrs Anne Mulholland
This Review:	March 2018
Next Review Due:	March 2021
Cycle:	Three Yearly
Ratified by Full Governing Body on:	19 March 2018
Signed:	
Mr Gerard Owens	Chair of Governors

***With Christ as our guide and example we celebrate the uniqueness of the individual.
Together we will try to:
Learn from Jesus;
Love like Jesus;
Live like Jesus.***

Our Homework Policy reflects the Mission Statement. We are committed at St. Patrick's School to provide an environment of the highest quality with teaching and learning opportunities of excellence where all children have equal dignity and worth.

Introduction

Homework is defined as tasks set by the school for children to complete outside of normal school hours: these tasks contribute to, support and extend the learning that takes place during the school day. Homework encompasses a wide range of activities which enable staff, parents and children to work in partnership.

The purpose of homework

The rationale for homework can be found in the 1997 White Paper "Excellence in Schools" where homework is recognised as "an essential part of good education". Mutual support from parents and teachers enable children to become more independent in their learning and homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of achievement. Our Creative Curriculum encourages children to pursue lines of enquiry that interest them and in line with Article 12 of the UNCRC we encourage pupil voice.

We also acknowledge Article 31 of the UNCRC: the right of the child to relax, play and join in a wide range of activities and recognise that homework should not prevent children from taking part in out of school clubs, hobbies and interests. Moreover, children's achievements outside school are regularly celebrated as a community.

At St Patrick's we believe that homework:

Consolidates recent work

Homework should give children the opportunity to practise and reinforce new learning.

Builds on recent work

Homework may give children the opportunity to extend learning that has taken place in the classroom.

Reinforces basics

Homework may give children the opportunity to re-visit earlier objectives.

Informs future planning

Teachers use homework an assessment for learning tool which informs future planning.

Supports independent learning

Homework should give children an opportunity to be an independent learner and as a child progresses through the school, this expectation increases.

Provides an essential dialogue between school and parents

Homework provides teachers and parents with an efficient way of monitoring progress, overcoming difficulties and ensuring sufficient challenge.

Celebrates success

Homework should be a positive experience which celebrates successful learning.

Format

Homework is delivered through our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), DB Primary, Mathletics and SPAG.com. Each child has their own individual log in and password.

Homework is set online or through homework books and completed in a book or online as appropriate. It can be set for a whole class or small groups.

DB Primary has some activities which can be marked online but also allows for teachers to add their own tasks.

Children can e-mail teachers with questions and comment on tasks. Children without access to a printer or the internet still have tasks printed for them at school.

Homework in Key Stage 1

In EYFS and in Key Stage 1, we encourage children to read by allowing children to choose appropriately levelled books to take home and read with their parents. Guidance is given to inform parents in how to achieve the maximum benefits from this time.

Spellings which reinforce the sounds and patterns learned recently are given to children and are differentiated appropriately. Children are encouraged to use the look, write, cover, check method. Occasionally topic vocabulary will be set as spelling homework.

Simple maths tasks which can sometimes be a game or a practical activity are sometimes set, along with learning of number bonds or tables.

Children are often asked to research a topic: this may be by looking at books or by bringing in objects from home.

Children in Key Stage 1 are expected to spend around an hour a week or ten minutes every night on homework, *in addition to* daily reading to a parent.

RE is set at least once a half term.

Homework in Key Stage 2

Homework in Key Stage 2 builds on the types of tasks set in Key Stage 1 with the amount of time spent on homework increasing to 15 minutes a night in Years 3 and 4; and 30 minutes a night in Years 5 and 6. This is in line with DfE guidelines issued in 1998.

Activities may include maths exercises and investigations, reading comprehensions and written tasks. These tasks consolidate the current unit of work and will sometimes feed into lessons taking place the following week.

RE is set at least once a half term.

Children may also be set extended tasks which support the approach taken by our Creative Curriculum. ICT is used more extensively in Key Stage 2 as a tool to research, complete and present homework.

The level of independence with which children carry out tasks is expected to increase, particularly in Upper Key Stage 2. This is to support children in their transition to Key Stage 3.

Assessment of Homework

Children will be assessed in line with the school assessment policy. This may include teacher assessment, peer assessment or self-assessment. Marking symbols will be used and children's efforts are rewarded with house points or stickers as appropriate.

Homework is set for all children as a normal part of school life and we endeavour to set tasks which are matched to the ability of the child. Tasks are adapted to support or challenge children as appropriate.

Support with completing and managing homework tasks

Homework is set and handed in on regular day to ensure children have sufficient time to complete tasks. This will always include the weekend. Large, covered books are used throughout the school.

Children who do not do homework or regularly miss deadlines will be monitored and their parents informed. It may be necessary for children to complete homework tasks during school time.

Children who are unable complete homework at home or within the time allowed may be invited to attend homework club. This is to support disadvantaged children, EAL children, Forces children and other children on a need by need basis in discussion with their class teachers.

Role of Parents

At St Patrick's we believe that parents are their child's first educators and that parents have a vital role to play in ensuring progression in their child's learning. Parents can support their child by:

- *Encouraging their child to complete tasks independently.*
- *Providing an environment which allows children to concentrate and do their best.*
- *Providing a space and resources to allow children to work.*
- *Initiating the homework book regularly and commenting on their child's response to a task.*

If parents have any problems or questions about homework they should, in the first instance, go to their child's class teacher. If questions are of a general nature they should contact the Headteacher.

Further enquiries about the school's homework policy or how it is implemented should be addressed to the Governing Body.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our Governing Body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy through the Curriculum Committee. Parents completed a questionnaire during the School's OFSTED inspection and our Governing Body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised at the time or in between OFSTED inspections, by any parent. Our Governing Body may, at any time, request from the Headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in the school.