

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Homework Policy

July 2026

Mission Statement

St Mary's school community follows the teachings of Jesus Christ, working together to develop the whole child, in a spiritual, moral, academic, physical, social and emotional way, within a caring and supportive environment.

Ethos

We recognise that there is a challenge in creating an enriching environment for all those involved at every level of school life. We take our lead and inspiration from Christ with regard to the Gospel values: the belief that all human beings are uniquely created and loved by God and worthy of respect. This challenge manifests itself in the way that we treat and value:

- Our relationships with each other and the wider community;
- Our respect for one another;
- Our welcome to and interest in all those who visit our school;
- Discipline inspired by forgiveness, healing and reconciliation;
- Our school environment

Through rising to this challenge, we aim to create an awareness of a sense of belonging to and being part of the life at St Mary's.

Through the implementation of this policy we aim to:

Extend opportunities for learning, ensure a consistent approach throughout the school, encourage children to develop increasing independence and a sense of personal responsibility, meet the needs of all pupils, make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers, improve the quality of the partnership between home and school, provide activities that encourage parents or other carers to work with their children and develop responsibility for homework, which prepares older pupils for transfer to secondary school.

The purpose of homework

There are four main ways in which we believe that homework contributes to raising the standards of achievement:

1. *It can help to develop the partnership between home and school, which children need to be aware of, if they are to develop good attitudes to learning.*

To ensure successful learning we believe that children should see the values promoted at school being actively supported by parents:

- Children and parents should be very clear about what is to be completed at home. We encourage all pupils to attend homework club in order to encounter support and we ask that parents check through homework with their child prior to it being handed in.
- Children should be encouraged to do homework thoroughly. As often as possible homework is expected to be completed on the sheet for ease. Where possible it is useful for parents to talk through the work with their children as this provides a good opportunity for parents to see how their children are getting on.
- Homework is never intended to be exhausting, tiring, or upsetting, and, on the contrary many children actually enjoy the tasks which have been set. Tasks are intended to reinforce and extend class work, and

teachers appreciate support from parents with homework. Some children may need more support with their homework whereas others are able to work more independently.

2. *Homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy, which children are gaining at school.*
 - In the youngest classes, the tasks set will often be centered on reading and the keynote will be enjoyment and sharing of books together; in fact, actively involving parents in children's learning is one of the main themes of 'homework' and it is the involvement of parents in joint activities which is most valuable in promoting children's learning.
 - In the infants the children will be set a variety of tasks or activities intended to reinforce phonics, spellings and number facts and of course reading together. These tasks provide a very important opportunity for young children to talk about what they are learning at school and to practise key skills in a supportive environment.
 - In the junior classes children are asked to read each evening, and also to practise spellings, number facts and multiplication tables. They will often be asked to complete a maths task or a piece of SPAG or comprehension. Sometimes homework may be related to other curriculum areas e.g. Science or RE.
 - We believe that the most important feature of homework is the quality of the completed task rather than the amount of time spent on it.
3. *It enables children to benefit from a wider range of resources of all kinds, than those available in school.*
 - Besides providing children with the opportunity to talk to an adult about what they are learning, parents and relatives can offer a wealth of experience from which children can benefit. They can also assist children to visit the library and help them access resources which may be found there.
4. Homework encourages children as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own and prepares them for the requirements of Secondary school.
 - It is important that children should gradually get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time, which may not always be long, to study on their own. Good routine and a set time and place for homework are important, as are encouragement and praise when children have completed the task set.

Parents can help by making it clear that they value homework and can support the school in explaining how it can help children's learning.

Homework Activities

Reception: Homework is sent home weekly and is based around something which the children have been learning in class. This might be maths or literacy related or may extend out to RE. The children are meant to consolidate their learning with these home activities. In addition to this the children will have a reading book which they are encouraged to read and discuss with an adult at home.

Year 1: Homework goes home once a week and consists of spelling and maths. Reading should take place at home every day.

Year 2: Homework goes home once a week. It is intended to both consolidate the learning in the room and help prepare the children for their end of term and end of year assessments. Homework consists of weekly spellings, numeracy and a piece of literacy.

Year 3: Homework goes out once a week. It is intended to consolidate the learning in the room. Weekly homework will consist of literacy, numeracy, RE mental arithmetic, handwriting practice and spellings.

Year 4: Homework goes out once a week. It consists of maths, literacy, spellings and RE. At time in year 4 the children are set projects over the half term breaks to prepare the children for their Topic unit when they return.

Year 5: Homework in year 5 goes home once a week. It consists of a reading comprehension to refine reading skills, a piece of grammar work which is intended to consolidate learning which has taken place in the week. In addition to this the children will receive weekly spellings and times tables which they are required to learn. Finally, the children will have numeracy work which will usually require some calculation skills to solve.

Year 6: In year 6 homework is given out once a week and the children have 5 days to complete it. It is distributed on a Monday and needs to be back in school on a Friday. The homework is marked as a class so that children can address misconceptions. Homework includes SPAG activities, 2 reading comprehensions, handwriting and numeracy activities which all link to the learning in the classroom. Often RE homework can be sent home to consolidate the learning from that week.

Marking and Reviewing Homework

Teachers will stress the importance of an independent approach to tasks- tasks support what has been learnt in class or may involve research or preparing information. If necessary, parents are encouraged to talk through homework with their children so they are able to receive an instant response, but teachers will review homework, marking it and sometimes using it as a tool for discussion. Lists of spelling words may be issued, along with number facts; these should be learnt and then a weekly spelling test should be carried out in order to assess understanding. Encouraging a regular homework time and space can establish a supportive environment for each child. Homework and its suitability will also be discussed with pupils and parents at parents' evenings and meet the teacher afternoons.

Homework Club

Years 1 – 6 (from September 2026) will be automatically granted a place in Homework Club after school. These are opt-out. Children who may find the homework challenging or need a quiet place to complete the work can do so at homework club. Staff will be available during these sessions to both encourage and guide children through their work which enables children to complete more work and feel confident in doing so. In any case, children are encouraged to approach their teacher if they are struggling with homework and together they can find a suitable time to go through it together.

Notes for Parents- How can I help my child?

Here are some ways you can help your child to develop positive routines and expectations around homework:

- Make sure you know what homework has been set and encourage your child to do it thoroughly
- Encourage children to talk about their homework and discuss what they have done with you
- Try to keep up-to-date with your child's learning at school; read the termly newsletter sent home by the class teacher, attend open evenings and speak to your child's teacher if you ever have any concerns
- Find opportunities for your child to use numbers in everyday situations and encourage problem solving mentally
- Establish and maintain a consistent routine
- At home ensure your child reads every night and sign the reading record to evidence that this has taken place.

Policy written in July 2026.

To be reviewed in July 2027.