

we pray we live we play we learn

St. Winefride's Catholic Voluntary School



Homework Policy

Date: Sept 2015

To be reviewed: Sept 2016

Approved

Date 23.11.15

1. Introduction

At St. Winefrides we recognise the important part in a child's education that parents and carers have. We see homework as an important link between school and home. Homework can help children to become independent learners and to develop good work habits for the future. Whilst we believe in the role of homework in raising a child's attainment, we also acknowledge that it is important for the child's development that they have free time to play as well as to take part in out of school activities such as sport, music or uniformed organisations.

In this policy homework refers to any work or activity that children are asked to do outside of the normal school day, usually supported by parents. However as pupils reach year 5 and 6 they become increasingly independent in their learning and are encouraged to begin to manage their time in preparation for the demands of secondary school.

2. Through our policy we aim to:

- Encourage a positive attitude to learning
- Consolidate and extend learning experiences and raise attainment
- Motivate learners
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and school to work in partnership
- Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility preparing year 6 learners for secondary transfer

3. Teachers will undertake to:

- Set homework which is varied, has a clear focus and takes into account the differing ability levels of the pupils in the class.
 - Make sure that homework extends and consolidates work that has been done in class and mainly focuses on the areas of literacy and numeracy & RE
- Inform parents if children regularly fail to do their homework or if it is below the expected standard for that child.
- Praise achievement and ensure that all homework is marked as soon as possible.

4. Parents will undertake to:

- Encourage their child to do their homework regularly
- Ensure that reading is carried out at home every night and to sign the reading record in the organiser
- Provide a reasonably quiet place in which children can do their homework
- Engage with homework by asking their child to explain what work has been completed and what they have learnt
 - Encourage and praise their child when homework is done
 - Talk to the school if there are problems with homework

5. Children will undertake to:

- Carry out homework tasks as directed by their teacher
- Read every night at home
- Explain homework tasks and what has been learnt to their parents

6. Progression

All children will be encouraged to undertake homework from Foundation to Year 6

Foundation Our Foundation children are encouraged to read every night with an adult. They may also complete a language or maths activity each week. The activities will consolidate basic skills that the children are learning in class and will enable children to share activities with parents and carers.

From year 1-6 information about current areas of learning will be sent home every term so that learning can be followed up at home. This is also available on our website. Maths homework is usually set using *My Maths*. We make computers available for at school for pupils who are not able to access a computer at home.

Years 1 and 2 Children are encouraged to read every night with an adult. English or RE and maths activities are set every week. We ask parents and carers to work with and support their children with these activities.

Years 3 and 4 Children are encouraged to read at home every night. We ask that adults at home question them about their reading. Once children leave the reading scheme we provide a reading list to help guide pupils towards quality literature. English and or RE and maths activities will be set every week. We ask parents and carers to work with and support their children with these activities

Years 5 and 6 Children are encouraged to read at home every night. We provide a reading list to help guide pupils towards quality literature. We ask that adults at home ask questions about their reading to check understanding. English / RE and maths activities will be set every week, sometimes there may be work relating to science or topic. In year 6 activities set are often in the form of revision books which provide a structured approach to the Year 6 curriculum and prepare pupils for the end of year tests. We ask that parents/carers encourage their children to work as independently as possible on the activities provided.

It is expected that, up to Year 4, parents will work with and support children with their homework. From Year 5 onwards, children will be expected to work more independently to prepare them for secondary education. All children have organisers which are used for recording books taken home and any dialogue with parents. Homework diaries will be used for Years 5 and 6. The RE Reflection book is used in school and at home.

In line with other schools we have a recommended time allocation for homework

Years 1 and 2 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 – 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 – 30 minutes per day

- Please contact to your child's teacher if they struggle with a particular piece of homework, for example a note in the organiser to say that they have had a go but need more help with a particular aspect. If homework routinely is taking longer than the above recommendations please speak to your child's teacher.
- Useful equipment to have at home: Pens, pencils, ruler, colouring pencils, dictionary, thesaurus
- Use of ICT - we ask parents to always supervise their child's access to the internet
- There may be occasions where a child may miss some of playtime or lunchtime if they have not completed their homework

This policy will be monitored by the leadership team and governors and reviewed annually