

Homework Policy



Sacred Heart Primary School
Dundrum

HOMEWORK POLICY

WHY IS HOMEWORK IMPORTANT?

Homework is valuable for the following reasons:

1. It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
2. It can allow pupils to develop the practice of working on their own without the constant presence of the teacher or other pupils on the one hand and the external discipline of the timetable, bells etc. on the other. This way of working is vital at the later stages of their education.
3. Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds.
4. It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
5. It can allow pupils to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
6. It can involve parents and others in the pupils' work for their mutual benefit.
7. It can give opportunities for long term research and other work.
8. It can form an important part of the pupil's notes.
9. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules.
10. It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success in the later stages of their education.
11. Allows children to work at their own pace.

THE TYPE OF HOMEWORK

We have a system whereby the class teacher sets a number of homeworks per week. The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, different classes and topics of study. Homework is not set for school holidays. Marking homework forms an integral part of our assessment. We aim to return marked homework to the pupils as soon as possible, for inclusion in that topic of work and whilst the exercise is fresh in the pupil's mind.

Each homework may involve the following:

- Reading/writing/spelling. In the early years reading books are taken home as a matter of course. Pupils 'read' at home and/or practise key words or sounds with their family. Weekly spellings can be given and possibly number bonds or tables. Parents routinely monitor homework.
- Watching a T.V. programme/Newsround etc.
- Completing Literacy Bug Club/ Education City Tasks.
- Carrying out a project. This may involve research, collection of information for an individual or group project;
- Observing/recording;
- Making a model to exemplify an item of work. This often involves the whole family in the discussion, e.g. a musical instrument, circuit games, digestive system. Materials are either provided or involve the use of 'household junk' items. The majority of pupils thoroughly enjoy this type of challenge and commit more than 1 hour to the task;
- Completing an exercise to practice, enforce or apply aspects of the class work, e.g. writing up practical work. This type of homework would usually be restricted to years 6 and 7;
- The time taken to complete homework will vary from year group to year group.

The task selected by the class teacher will be matched with the pupil's ability.

A guide to the type of homework set by the staff of Sacred Heart P.S.

Key Stage 1 (per week)

- Games
- 2 Numeracy tasks
- 2 Literacy tasks
- 1 Levelled Reading Book
- 1 Library Book

Key Stage 2

- Always include Literacy /Numeracy activities per week
- Encourage the use of ICT i.e. Education Programmes/ Apps Search Engines
- Research Homeworks
- Problem Solving/ Investigation tasks

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL HELP PUPILS ORGANISE THEIR HOMEWORK?

- a) Each pupil, from Primary Four, is given a homework diary at the beginning of the year. It says when the homework for each subject area will be set and when it is due in.
- b) We try to make sure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class and that all pupils have plenty of time to copy down what is expected.
- c) We aim to mark or respond to homework regularly and in a way that is helpful to pupils.

HOW CAN PARENTS OR GUARDIANS HELP WITH HOMEWORK?

- a) Check that homework details are filled in clearly and regularly in the homework diary.
- b) Help your child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
- c) Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
- d) Take a positive and active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- e) Let us know if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve. Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much or not enough or is finding it too easy or too difficult. Contact the class teacher in the first instance who will be glad to help.
- f) Encourage child to complete homework **as independently as possible**.

FAILURE TO HAND IN HOMEWORK

We expect completed homework to be given in on time. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules. If homework is not given in appropriate action is taken:

- The class teacher will have a discussion with the pupil to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to hand in the work;
- The class teacher may give the child an extra night to complete the piece of homework;
- The teacher may contact the parents to discuss their child's homework;
- Pupils may be told to attend a lunch time session to complete their work;
- A note is required if homework is not completed,
- Parents may be contacted if homework is not completed on a regular basis.