



## St Margaret Mary's RC Primary School

2018-2020

### Draft Homework Policy

#### Our Mission:

**We try to follow Jesus in everything we do.**

We help everybody in our school family and we try to let our light shine as the light of Jesus shines.

Everyone at St. Margaret Mary's is special. We feel happy and safe.  
We are encouraged to value ourselves and each other in an atmosphere of trust, good humour, acceptance and enjoyment.

Saint Margaret Mary's school is where we come to learn through exciting and fun lessons. We try to always be welcoming and caring to all. We want to do our best, even if we find it difficult.

#### INTRODUCTION AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To enable pupils to achieve their full potential.
- To ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help to continue to raise standards of achievement.
- To improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- To provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- To encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- To reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for the individual pupil.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Maths and English.
- To encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To extend school learning, through additional reading.

#### THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when setting homework there are a number of points to consider:-

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career, including the requirement to return it to school.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

Homework is **not**:

- A means of finishing work not completed in the classroom
- An afterthought at the end of the lesson

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF STRUCTURED HOMEWORK**

At St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary School, we believe homework is a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement and of enabling the school to offer some support to parents beyond the school day. As such, we believe homework requires vital commitment by teachers, pupils and parents. Teachers at the school are required to set homework under this policy. However, we also believe that homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the child's family. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out of-school activities, e.g. swimming, dancing, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc. Our aim is to create a healthy balance in family life. Therefore normally, more than one day will be allowed for the completion of a homework task, except where daily practice is to be encouraged e.g. reading, spellings and times tables and a structured approach to weekly homework is established.

### **READING**

The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that children will read for pleasure in their own time. All pupils will be provided with a suitable school reading book, which can be taken home to read with a parent or other adult person. A record book will be provided for parents to sign when they have listened to or read to their child. Parents will be asked to sign reading homework to indicate that it has been completed. Whilst we understand the benefits of homework on raising pupil achievement, we also believe that it is the development of children's reading skills and the promotion of the love of reading for pleasure that has the greatest impact on raising pupil achievement. Therefore in order to support parents with reading at home the school will:

- Organise meetings for parents which support and guide parents in the best ways to help children at home with reading.
- Provide sample focused questions to use when reading with children at home.
- Provide activities in a booklet and on the school website which can be completed at home and help develop children's comprehension skills.
- Develop a reading reward scheme in classes that praises children at the end of each term for the amount of reading they complete.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND)**

Setting the right type and amount of homework for children with special educational needs will need careful consideration by the class teacher and co-ordination with both the SENCo and parents. The objectives of homework outlined in this policy should apply equally to pupils with special educational needs. Whilst children with SEN may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class, it is important that they should do as much in common with other children as possible. Homework tasks for children with SEN should: have a very clear focus and time-guideline; give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed; help develop social as well as other skills where necessary; be varied - and not purely written assignments; be manageable for teachers.

### **HOMEWORK TASKS**

At St Margaret Mary's we believe that a regular pattern is important, particularly for English and Mathematics. We will endeavour to establish a familiar routine of when homework is set and

are returned. This information will be made clear to parents in termly newsletters and at the initial parents' evening at the beginning of the academic year.

### **ROLE OF THE CLASS TEACHER**

- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes.
- To match homework, as far as possible, to the ability of the children.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the taught curriculum.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To facilitate the peer marking of homework and give feedback to any pupils who have not achieved the outcomes set for the task.
- To promote a love of wider reading by developing and maintaining a reward system for reading.

### **ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER/ Leadership team**

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
- To inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails.

### **ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS**

- To sign a home school agreement dealing with homework.
- To support the school by ensuring that their child completes the homework and returns it to school at the required time.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.
- To ensure Reading Diaries are filled and signed as appropriate.

At St Margaret Mary's Catholic Primary School we are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework. We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as they do not take over too much. However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with the class teacher. If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help need to be given. It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term times. Parents/Guardians who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.