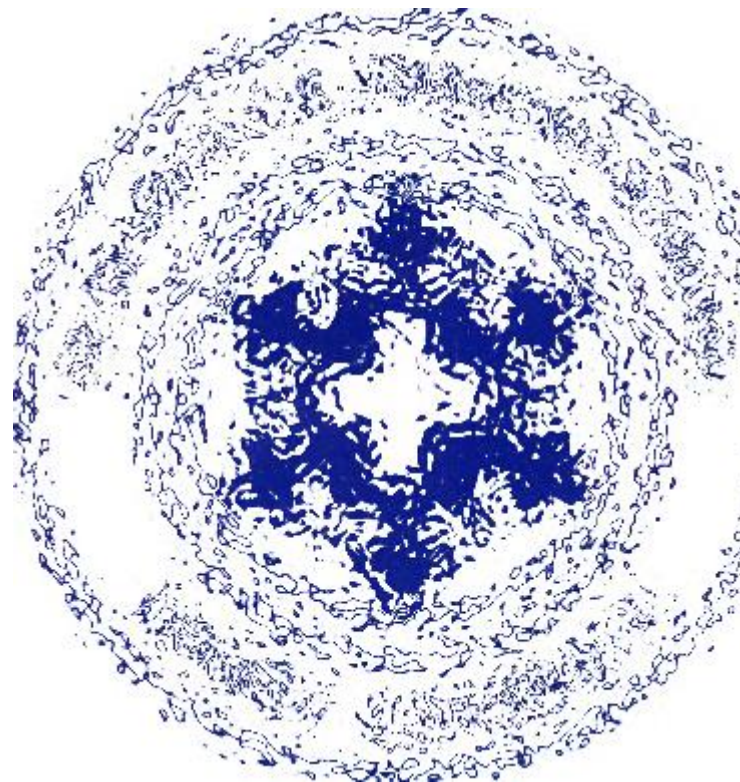


St. Mary's

**Church of England Primary School
Kirkby Lonsdale**

HOMEWORK POLICY



St Mary's CE Primary School
Home Learning Policy

Rationale:

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education". -1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools

St Mary's CE School is committed to setting regular home learning appropriate to the age, needs and experiences of the child. Home learning is important at all stages in a child's education and when used properly, it extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximise effect. Home learning makes a significant contribution to the development of independent learning. Home learning refers to any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. This work will be marked where appropriate by class teachers, support staff, pupils and peers.

Home learning is an important and valuable aspect of children's learning, standards and improving the quality of education in school. Here at St Mary's CE School, we believe there are many benefits to be gained by the provision of home learning:

Aims of structured Home learning:

- ✓ To support children's learning opportunities via reinforcement and consolidation, particularly in mathematics, and English.
- ✓ To share with parents/carers the expectations school has regarding their child.
- ✓ To provide opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences and to exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home.
- ✓ To encourage the development of positive attitudes towards learning among children.
- ✓ To equip the pupils, with the self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the increased demands of secondary school homework.
- ✓ Reinforcement and revision of work undertaken in class.
- ✓ Encourage a responsible and independent attitude towards learning.
- ✓ Improve children's independent study skills.
- ✓ Encourage creativity and individuality in learning
- ✓ Practice and consolidate basic skills and knowledge.
- ✓ Help to create a sound partnership between school and home.
- ✓ Prepare children for secondary school and beyond.

For home learning to fulfil these aims, it is necessary that parents are fully aware of the school's requirements and are actively involved in supporting their child. Home learning will be set weekly in both the infants and juniors. With this in mind, we present for you our home learning policy and each year's guidelines.

Recommended Time Allocation:

"With only rare exception, the relationship between the amount of homework students do and their achievement outcomes was found to be positive and statistically significant," Harris Copper (2006)

The government has not issued a recommended time allocation for home learning for primary aged children, however as a school we believe the times below help to secure school learning:

Reception & Years 1 & 2	60 minutes per week.
Years 3 & 4	90 minutes per week
Years 5 & 6	120 minutes per week.

- This time would include reading.
- The recommended time to be spent on homework for each year group is outlined on class letters at the start of each academic year to clarify expectations and avoid children spending too much time on homework.
- If a child has spent the recommended time on a piece of home learning but has not completed the homework, parents are invited to sign the home learning and indicate how long was spent doing it in order ensure quality family time is not impacted and the child is not spending an unreasonably long time completing home learning.
- Home learning will not be expected to be finished at school if signed by a parent indicating appropriate time has already been spent on the home learning.
- Home learning is not generally expected to be completed during holidays as the school regards holidays as an opportunity for quality family time therefore any home learning set leading up to a holiday will be expected to be completed either the week preceding the break or the week following the break. (An exception would be for Year 6)

Home learning Procedures:

Home Learning: At the beginning of each year, parents receive a class letter. This letter outlines the procedures, expectations and includes times / dates regarding the home learning their child will receive during the term ahead. Home learning letters include the following information:

- Subjects for which homework is issued,
- regularity,
- time expectations,
- days given / handed in,
- recording procedures

How we help pupils complete home learning:

The learning style we promote is a supportive culture enabling pupils to be honest about their difficulties, able to share their mistakes and willing to ask for help. Parents, older siblings, staff, friends and pupil mentors may be involved in helping pupils complete their home learning. Pupils should use their personal responsibility and time management skills to be successful in completing home learning over the course of one week.

As a **Google Education School**, home learning may be set using this platform.

Rewards for completion of homework: Each class teacher monitors homework. This helps to observe children's attitudes and achievement and helps inform discussions with parents. Children who complete home learning will receive recognition for this.

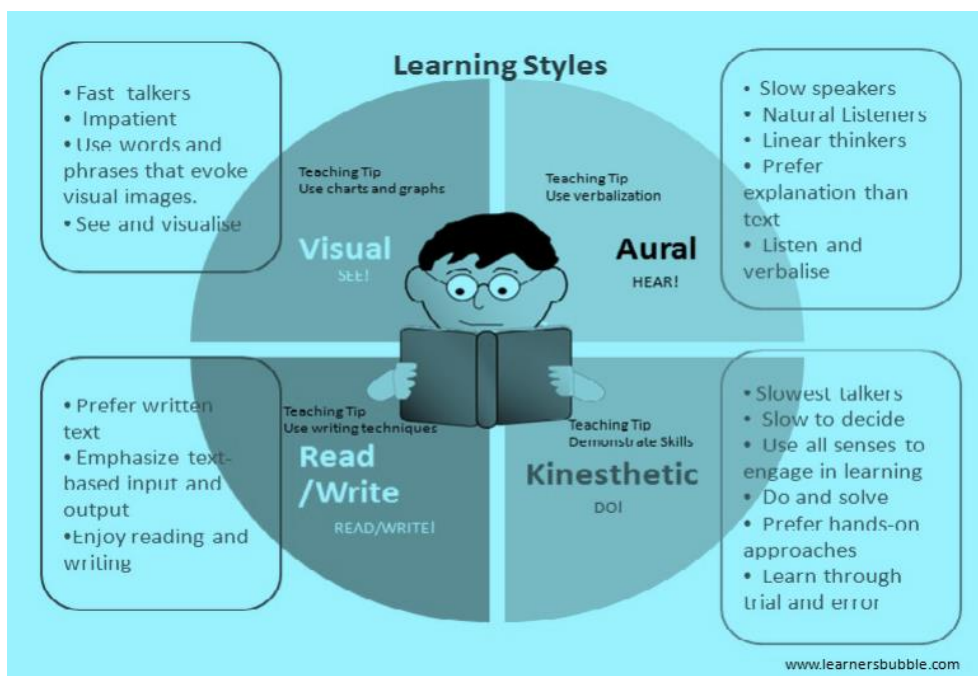
Procedures regarding incomplete homework: Pupils who do not complete their homework or who have not spent the recommended time trying to complete their homework will receive a verbal reminder.

Parents will be notified if their child regularly fails to submit homework or does not spend the recommended time trying to complete their homework.

Learning Planners

In the junior classes (Year 2-6) children are encouraged to use planners provided by the school to organise and communicate their home learning. This encourages independence and ownership in learning. Parents and carers are encouraged to help their children use these independently.

Home learning projects are creative projects which enhances the children's learning with a focus on the geography or history topic being studied. These are communicated via a letter on a half termly basis. Children are encouraged to be supported by family members but these should be independent projects enabling the children to explore their creativity and learning styles.



Weekly home learning

Reception

In the first year of school, homework will consist of:-

- Reading books being sent home once your child is ready for a reading book
- Key words to learn at home to support Phonics' teaching
- One piece of Phonics/ Maths homework

Years 1 & 2

In Years 1 & 2 of school, homework will consist of:-

- Daily reading. Reading Books – changed when necessary in school.
- Y1 – weekly spelling tests based on phonics' teaching
- Y2 – Read write Inc scheme. Weekly spelling tests of 6 of 12 words
- Y1 and Y2 – One piece of Literacy, Maths or Creative curriculum per week

Year 3

In Year 3 of school, homework will consist of:-

- Daily reading. Reading Books – changed as and when necessary.
- Read, Write Inc scheme. Weekly spelling tests of set words.
- Weekly Times Tables tests
- One piece of homework either Written Maths or English

Year 4

In Year 4 of school, homework will consist of:-

- Daily reading. Reading Books – changed as and when necessary.
- Read, Write Inc scheme. Weekly spelling tests of set words.
- Weekly Times Tables tests
- One piece of English homework.
- One piece of Maths written homework.

In addition, the Year 3 and 4 National Curriculum words will be tested termly.

Year 5

In Year 5 homework will consist of:-

- Daily reading. Reading Books – changed as and when necessary.
- Read, Write Inc scheme.

- Weekly spelling tests of Years 3/4 words (Autumn term) and Years 5/6 words (Spring/summer terms)
- Weekly Times Tables tests
- One piece of Maths homework
- One piece of English written homework

Year 6

In Year 6 homework will consist of:-

- Daily reading. Reading Books – changed as and when necessary.
- Read, Write Inc scheme. Weekly spelling tests of six of the set words.
- Weekly spelling tests of National curriculum words.
- One piece of English written homework
- One piece of Maths written homework
- Weekly Times Tables tests
- Additional SATS preparation will be sent home.

Policy agreed by Governing body: June 2021
To be reviewed: July 2023

Signed:

Headteacher_____

Chair of Governors_____

