

# St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

When You Love To Learn  
You Learn To Love



## Homework Policy

July 2020

This policy and the attached guidelines were written after consultation with school staff and parents.

### **Purpose of homework**

There are enormous advantages in children spending regular periods of time, on different learning activities devised by schools as part of a homework programme which supports the work they do in school. The Government's White Paper "Excellence in Schools" proposed that national guidelines on homework should be published and the publication *Homework: Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools* (1998) was the result. Inspections by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) look at whether homework is used effectively to reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school.

- Homework should be part of an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school.
- Homework should consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, especially in literacy and numeracy.
- Homework should exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home.
- Homework should extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- Homework should encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

The Governors and staff of St John Fisher recognise the need for children to have the time to follow out of school interests and family activities and the attached guidelines and time allocations allow for these important things to take place. This has been particularly important when deciding on the amount of homework that will be set.

### **Special educational needs**

Although it is seen as important that children identified as having special educational needs do as much in common with other children as possible there will be occasions when they may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework set for other children in the class. Such homework may be set/marked by the class teacher.

### **The able child**

It is acknowledged that the able child needs to be given homework that will use their full ability and their homework may differ from that set for the majority of the class.

### **Role of parents and carers in supporting pupils**

Parents and carers should be encouraged to:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which a child can do homework.
- Make it clear to their children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework.
- Please do not do the homework set for your children

### **Recommended time allocation for homework**

Below are the suggested homework times. as recommendations of the DfES for homework for children in key stage 2 are those below.

<b>R</b>	10 minutes, shared reading and word familiarisation daily
<b>Year 1</b>	15 minutes daily
<b>Year 2</b>	15 minutes daily
<b>Years 3 and 4</b>	up to 20minutes daily (1½ hours per week)
<b>Years 5 and 6</b>	30 minutes per day (2½ hours per week)

**Please encourage reading and read with your child as often as possible.  
Please recall**

Homework may be set on our 'On-Line Learning Platform' EDUCATIONCITY - this work links with classwork and supports computing skills at an age appropriate level.

As children move into the upper school the purpose of homework changes as children are prepared for the rigours of secondary school homework.

Children are still expected to read on a regular basis, but it is acknowledged that this is likely to be undertaken independently. However children on the individual reading programme are expected to read to adult.

Parents may sign children's unfinished homework if the time allocation has been used and the task is incomplete

It will be stressed to all children that they should ask for help if they cannot understand a task when they start working on it at home although staff will try to ensure that homework contains examples if possible to help parents understand the task.

If a child is absent then a copy of the homework will be put into their tray ready for when they return. A spare copy will be put in a homework folder in the classroom. It is the child's responsibility to make sure that they get their homework on their return and find another copy if they mislay their copy.

If homework is not handed in on time without good reason it will not be marked.