



Part of the Minster Trust for Education



Homework Policy

November 2023



Introduction

Our school vision: 'Together we grow to be the best that God created us to be', is underpinned by the Bible verse 'Love one another as I have loved you' John 15:12.

This vision supports our aim to provide within our school an inspirational and stimulating curriculum which challenges all children to realise their individual potential. Learning at home is recognised as being an essential part of this.

We believe that homework adds a very valuable dimension, with parents and school working in partnership to help children to develop not only knowledge and skills, but dispositions and attitudes, such as persistence and a willingness to take calculated risks which will stand them in good stead for tackling life's challenges.

Homework can offer the children the chance to practise newly learned skills, to investigate a particular interest, and to consolidate new learning. When set and completed within the right structure, its completion undoubtedly builds self-esteem and confidence in children.

Why do we give children homework?

At Holy Trinity we give children homework on a regular basis for all year groups including the Early Years Foundation Stage. Homework will be set in line with on-going class work. The setting of homework is carefully thought about by the teachers so that it has learning or a reinforcement purpose. The homework that is set will be at the child's level of working, with consideration being given to their interests, style of learning, culture, beliefs, and any special needs.

Why is homework important?

Homework is another way to involve children, and their parents /carers, in the learning process, and this allows us to extend the teaching and learning partnership. Homework will help children develop confidence and self-discipline and will enable them to move towards becoming independent learners. Homework will help us to raise standards and will empower the children to greater achievements and higher attainments.

Aims of our homework

- To reinforce class work and consolidate knowledge.
- To gain an initial assessment ready for a topic area.
- To enable the parent/carer to support school.
- To build up good home/school links.
- To encourage a positive work ethos and enjoyment for learning

The child's role in doing homework

By the end of Year 2 the children at Holy Trinity will:

- Have a positive attitude to taking work home.
- Have the task application necessary to work at home.
- Know that homework extends and consolidates knowledge.
- Regard productive learning beyond that of school hours.
- Know that learning is important and can take place out of school.

The role of parents and carers

We hope that parents and carers will:

- Understand why it is important to take an active part in their child's learning.
- Understand that learning involves a range of activities.
- Be prepared to help a child actively when necessary.
- Be able to approach teachers to ask for advice.

The role of the teacher

The teacher will:

- Set homework that is matched to the child's level of learning.
- Contact parents/carers if homework is regularly not returned.
- Reward children who engage with the homework process through praise, sharing their successes through marking/verbal comments, displaying, stickers, certificates in classrooms and through our celebration assemblies, to show our recognition for good learning habits.

What will be set as homework?

Homework tasks will vary as children get older, and homework tasks will also be dependent on the needs of each child. Homework within any age group will sometimes be differentiated because children have different strengths and targets. Children will be set homework regularly in line with the DfES guidelines, receiving the equivalent of:

- Approx. 20-40 minutes per week in the Foundation Stage.
- Approx. 30 minutes to an hour and a half per week in Years 1 and 2.

In the Foundation Stage, children may be expected to:

- Read with their parents/carers for 5-10 minutes.
- Learn spellings
- Complete maths activities.
- Complete activities relating to topic work.

In Year 1 and 2, children may be expected to:

- Read with their parents/carers for 10-15 minutes.
- Learn spellings.
- Complete maths activities
- Complete activities relating to topic work.

How will homework be planned?

Homework tasks are planned within the short term (weekly) frameworks which we use to plan and prepare for English, Mathematics and all other curriculum areas.

How will we inform parents about our homework policy?

This policy is published on our website. A paper copy is available from the office.

How is this policy developed and monitored, and when is it reviewed?

Curriculum coordinators, senior leaders, the Headteacher and Governors all have a role to play in monitoring homework, its effectiveness and success. This will take place through monitoring visits, coordinator learning walks, and staff, pupil, and parent feedback.

Reviewed: November 2023

Next review: November 2025