

St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy

St Thomas Aquinas Academy Trust



Love One Another as I have Loved you

John 13:34

Homework policy

Policy Date:	September 2021		
Policy Review Date:	September 2023	Charlotte Crosse	Head teacher
Ratified by Governing Body:			
Bernard Attard			

Introduction

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. The policy was approved and ratified by the Governing Body during the Advent 1 Term 2021 and is regularly reviewed.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

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 expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

- The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
- Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older, but this may also vary through the school year and be appropriate to the ability of the child.
- Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
- It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
- Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns, they should not hesitate to contact the school.

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, spelling and times tables.

The following are **government recommendations** as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6 - 30 minutes per day

Homework Tasks

Listed below, for each Phase of St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy, are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities and topics that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils' academic development.

Foundation Stage

These may include:

- School reading books and Bug Club allocated books.
- High Frequency words including Phase 2 and 3 Tricky Words.
- Home Learning linked to current topic.
- RE Explore once per topic.

Year 1 and Year 2

These may include:

- Daily reading - Reading books and allocated Bug Club books.
- My Maths or worksheet to reinforce current topic covered in class.
- Phonics reading or writing activities
- Common Exception Words reading and spelling practice
- Short Reading Comprehension Activity
- Times Tables Rock Stars (Y2)
- RE Explore tasks throughout the year.

Year 3 and Year 4

These may include:

- Daily reading - Reading book. Reading Records to be signed by parents.
- My Maths to reinforce current topic covered in class.
- Statutory Word Spellings (tested throughout the year)
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- RE Explore throughout the year

Year 5 and Year 6

They may include:

- Daily reading
- My Maths to reinforce current topic covered in class.
- Statutory Word Spellings (tested throughout the year)
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- RE Explore throughout the year.
- Activities to support SATs preparation (Y6)

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a school parents meeting or at an open evening.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine via Class Dojo.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the Year group.
- To set homework that is accessible and inclusive.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward completed homework tasks in line with the school reward system.
- To acknowledge homework and when necessary, feedback to pupils.

N.B. Whilst there is a legal responsibility for a school to set homework on a regular basis, the school cannot enforce the completion of homework and therefore, will not punish children for failing to complete some, or all of their homework.

Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

- 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.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by encouraging the child to attempt the homework.

- 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.

At St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy 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 their child's teacher.

Accessibility and Inclusion All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

General

- Wherever possible staff should acknowledge completed homework. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Acknowledging homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework and giving feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. Acknowledgement may be done in a variety of forms. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.
- If children are absent due to illness, we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work. However, if your child has to self-isolate the school will provide appropriate work to complete at home. (See remote learning policy)
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given.
- It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.

Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.