

St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy



Love One Another as I have Loved you
John 13:34

Homework policy

Policy Date:	October 2025		
Policy Review Date:	October 2027	Charlotte Crosse	Head teacher
Ratified by Governing Body:			
Dr Bernard Attard and Dr Clare Macdonald			

Our Mission

‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ John 13:34

In service of God first. More inclusive, more resilient, more hopeful, more for the world

Our mission at St Thomas More is to cultivate a community rooted in God’s love, where love, respect, and kindness guide every interaction. We embrace inclusion, fostering an environment where every individual is valued and supported. Through empathy and compassion, we nurture strong relationships that promote resilience in the face of challenges. We are dedicated to inspiring a lifelong love of learning while strengthening the faith that empowers us to grow together. We strive to be a place where every child feels seen, heard, and appreciated, building a foundation for success and well-being for all.

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.
- To extend the learning experience offered to pupils 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
- 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 forms with different expectations and outcomes.
- 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

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 tasks.

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 stage of St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy, are example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to 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 (Homework set on Tapestry)

These may include:

- School reading books.
- Phonics including tricky words.
- Home Learning linked to current topic.

Year 1 and Year 2 (Paper homework)

These may include:

- Daily reading
- Maths
- Phonics reading or writing activities
- Common Exception Words reading and spelling practice
- Short Reading Comprehension Activity
- MyMaths (online learning platform)
- Times Tables Rock Stars (Y2)

Year 3 and Year 4 (Homework set on Teams)

These may include:

- Daily reading
- Maths task to reinforce current topic covered in class.
- Reading comprehension
- Statutory Word Spellings (tested throughout the year)
- Times Tables Rock Stars

Year 5 and Year 6 (Homework set on Teams)

They may include:

- Daily reading
- Reading comprehension
- My Maths to reinforce current topic covered in class.
- Statutory Word Spellings (tested throughout the year)
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- 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.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine
- 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 acknowledge homework returned by 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. However, we encourage all families to recognise the importance of supporting homework tasks.

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 the implementation of the policy.

Role of Parents/Carers


- To support the school by encouraging the child to do 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 are involved. 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.

- If children are absent due to illness, we will not send homework home. We will assume the child is too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree a plan of action, how homework 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.
- Parent /Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.