

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School Homework Policy 2016-17



Government Recommendations

AGE GROUP	TIME	CONTENT
Years 1 and 2	1 hour a week	Number, spellings, other literacy and numeracy learning
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours a week	Literacy and numeracy as above and occasionally other subjects
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes per day	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely across the curriculum

St. Augustine's Homework Policy

At St. Augustine's, we encourage some homework in all classes. Although homework is not compulsory, we are aware that most parents are keen to share in their children's education.

Our aims for homework:

- To consolidate school learning
- To involve parents in their child's learning
- To extend and develop already learnt skills
- To speed up children's progress
- To continue tasks not completed at school
- To encourage pupils' independence in developing study and research skills

Actual tasks will vary but some general statements can be made about ideal homework conditions.

Homework is easier if there is:

- A quiet area without distractions of television, videos or video games.
- A regular and mutually agreed time.
- Support and praise from parents
- Feedback to teachers

It is important to emphasise that children should not continue if a task causes distress, if it is too late in the evening or if something arises that makes completion impossible. In these cases, teachers should be informed by the procedures agreed in each class.

Homework tends to be focused on the core subjects of English and Maths. From time to time, or in specific classes, homework may focus on other areas. In their class information notes to parents, teachers will explain their homework expectations for the term or year and the topic work to be covered. Children who receive extra support in small groups may also have a small amount of homework to consolidate their new learning. In Nursery class, no formal homework is set but a regular book exchange is set up. Children are encouraged to share a book with their parents, talking about the story and characters and making predictions about what might happen.

General Guidelines for KSI Reading

The most important way parents can support learning and our major expectation of parents is to read with their child every day. Reading in school takes place in a variety of contexts. The school reading scheme is only one of these. Irrespective of how often a child is heard to read at school, it is important that one to one reading skills are practised at home every day. It is a unique opportunity for parents and children to share a book in a relaxed way and many parents find it tremendously rewarding. Every child has a reading record book. We welcome parent's comments in these books.

Reception Class

Ten minutes spent enjoying a book each day.

In addition children may be asked to play games or learn simple high frequency words and target sounds.

Finding out activities related to class topics.

Encourage children to talk about events at home, school, visits etc to improve vocabulary and sentence structure.

Year 1

Daily reading: discussion of authors, illustrations, guessing possible endings.

Encourage children to talk about events at home, school, visits etc to improve vocabulary and sentence structure and to develop positive attitudes.

Finding out - related to topic work when requested by the teacher

Spellings, sounds and blends work as requested by teacher.

Year 2

Daily reading, discussion of authors, illustrations and guessing endings. Re-reading books to improve fluency.

Opportunities to talk about events at home, school, visits etc to improve vocabulary and sentence structure and to develop positive attitudes

Encourage the child to ask questions

Spellings as requested by teacher
 Mental mathematics practice
 Finding out - related to topic work.
 Research and own reading on topics
 All infant classes: Mathematics and Science

General Guidelines for KS2

Homework will be on Monday and Wednesday. In some cases, an individual child may be set special homework. There are many topics which may not be written down but are still classed as homework for example, a pupil may be asked to research material for particular topics using library, home computers and other resources. A good general knowledge to include countries, capital cities, plants, UK towns, cities and rivers can be acquired through study at home. Children also need to spend free time following their own interests and hobbies, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, sport, instrument practice etc.

Daily reading still remains an essential activity.

Homework may be set to consolidate class work in reading, writing, number and mathematical activities. Exact times will vary between individual children. We rely on parent's own knowledge of the child to decide how long s/he should spend on homework, but as a guide at primary level, homework should not take more than half an hour to one hour. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback about the success and manageability of tasks via Contact books. Strategies for improving homework will be discussed with children where necessary and with parents at Open Evenings, or by appointment with the teacher.

<p>Year 3 Daily Reading Multiplication tables Maths work Spellings Language work Specific tasks set by teacher from time to time. Research related to topic work</p>	<p>Year 5 Daily Reading Multiplication tables Maths work Spellings Language work Specific tasks set by teacher from time to time. Research related to topic work</p>
<p>Year 4 Daily Reading Multiplication tables Maths work Spellings Language work Specific tasks set by teacher from time to time. Research related to topic work</p>	<p>Year 6 Daily Reading Multiplication tables on occasions Weekly Maths work Spellings Weekly Language work Specific tasks set by teacher or unfinished work Research related to topic work</p>