



## Silverdale St John's CE Primary School Homework Policy

### **Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me – Philippians 4:13

*We strive to provide the Christian foundations to enable our children to make good decisions. Our children will be inspired, guided and supported to achieve success, as they are all of infinite worth. Taught through a creative curriculum, our children will become global citizens and will care for all of God's creation.*

It is our school policy that all pupils should receive homework as it is useful in reinforcing and practising knowledge and skills taught in class. Homework develops an effective partnership between home and school which promotes positive attitudes to learning.

It ensures that children make the best possible progress and effectively develop skills as independent learners. As children grow older, it develops their self-discipline and responsibility to study on their own and preparing them for future learning.

#### **Aims**

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- ensure the needs of the individual children are taken into account
- ensure that pupils and parents know what to expect
- extend and support the learning experience through reinforcement and revision
- provide opportunities for parents and children to enjoy learning together

#### **Expectations**

The exact time spent on homework will vary as individual age and ability must be taken into account. In general the amount of time to be spent on homework will increase as the child moves through school. Whilst we value homework as a vital part of the learning process, we recognise that many young people have interests and hobbies outside of school; we would never require so much to be completed that it impinges on other very important aspects of a child's life.

Children are expected to take responsibility for their homework by:

- listening carefully to the instructions given on homework
- completing and presenting homework to the best of their ability
- bringing their homework to and from school on the correct days

Parents have a key role in supporting children's homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older, but parents can support our policy by:

- providing a suitable place for homework activities away from any distractions
- making it clear that they value homework and ensuring books from school are returned
- completing the reading diary or checking a homework task is completed as appropriate
- not using homework as a threat or punishment
- contacting the teacher if there are any concerns about homework
- encouraging children to be as independent as possible

The teachers will:

- set homework which is appropriate to the age and ability of each child
- give a clear explanation of work to be completed at home
- give suitable guidance to parents where necessary, including when homework needs to be brought back to school
- give recognition and praise to children for their efforts
- feedback to children as appropriate

### Types of Homework

Time spent listening, talking, reading, explaining and encouraging your child is time well spent. Listed below are the types of activities your child might reasonably be expected to complete as homework as they move through the different phases of primary school.

It is particularly important that parents spend time speaking and listening to their children. As children get older there should be opportunities for children to develop the skills of independent learning.

Foundation Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>Talking</b> Talk is crucial in developing language and communication skills.</li><li>✓ <b>Reading</b> School reading books will be sent home when the children are ready. These will be changed twice a week and parents are asked write a brief note on how they read, in the reading diaries provided.</li><li>✓ <b>Sharing</b> Sharing bedtime stories, news about school, playing games or singing counting rhymes are so important in developing understanding, reasoning, logic and listening skills that are vital to early development.</li></ul>
Key Stage One (Y1/2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>Reading</b> Children will bring home their reading books each night and these will be changed when needed throughout the week. Parents are asked to find time to listen to their children read and make notes on accuracy, independence and understanding in the reading diaries provided.</li><li>✓ <b>Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling</b> Children will receive either a list of words to learn how to spell, or a small task which practises a skill linked to grammar or punctuation. This will alternate each week and parents are asked to support both tasks, although encouraging independence is important at this stage.</li><li>✓ <b>Weekly Homework Challenge</b> A small task that will be given out each week and will be a maths challenge, a science task or research linked to the topic.</li></ul>
Lower Key Stage Two (Y3/4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>Reading</b> A weekly reading task linked to the children's guided reading books. Children will be required to read a portion of their book and then complete a task to strengthen understanding.</li><li>✓ <b>Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling</b> On alternate weeks, children will have a list of spellings to learn or a consolidation task linked to grammar or punctuation.</li></ul>

	<p>✓ <b>Mathematics</b> A fortnightly task that consolidates or strengthens a skill worked on in class.</p> <p>Homework diaries will clearly outline the expected homework for the week.</p>
<p>Upper Key Stage Two (Y5/6)</p>	<p>✓ <b>Reading</b> A weekly reading task linked to the children’s guided reading books. Children will be required to read a portion of their book and then complete a task to strengthen understanding.</p> <p>✓ <b>Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling</b> Each week, children will have a list of spellings to learn or a consolidation task linked to grammar or punctuation.</p> <p>✓ <b>Mathematics</b> A weekly task that consolidates or strengthens a skill worked on in class.</p> <p>Homework tasks given in Y5/6 will noticeably increase and require more time to complete. This is specifically designed in order to increase the children’s stamina for homework, becoming ‘high school ready’.</p>

The guidelines above reflect the ‘normal’ amount of homework to be brought home and completed throughout the school year, by each class. These will be followed closely in order to allow pupils, parents and teachers to build up a routine. When the school has any special events, weeks or celebratory times of the year, this may differ.

Reviewed by Sarah Sanderson

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