

St Oswald's RC Primary School

Homework Policy

The purpose of homework is:

- To consolidate and reinforce children's skills, knowledge and understanding particularly in English and Mathematics.
- To extend children's opportunities for learning beyond school.
- To encourage children as they grow older to develop the confidence and self discipline to study independently.
- To provide opportunities for children, parents and school to work in partnership.
- To prepare children in Year 6 for transfer to High School.

We recognise that the purpose of homework may change as children get older. In the Early Years and at Key Stage 1, the emphasis is placed on developing a partnership with parents and carers and involving them actively in children's learning. During Key Stage 2, there is greater emphasis upon providing opportunities for children to develop independent learning skills.

How much homework?

Whilst we appreciate the value of homework, it is equally important that children of all ages have time to develop through a wide range of activities such as play, participating in after school clubs etc. It is therefore important that children are not overburdened with formal homework. As a rough guide we recommend that children may be asked to spend the following amount of time doing homework:

EYFS There is no set time for children in Reception Class.

KS1 About one hour per week.

KS2 About one and a half hours per week.

What is homework?

Homework will usually focus on English and Mathematics skills. In English, the emphasis will be on reading and spelling with some practice of writing skills. In Mathematics we will focus on knowledge and skills that the children have worked on in class the week prior to homework being set. The children may also be asked to find information, carry out problem solving tasks or play games.

The following is a rough guide to the sort of homework that we might set for different groups of children.

EYFS Homework will focus on reading, including recognising letters and sounds, and segmenting and blending in order to develop the early reading skills taught in class. They are also set a “Talk About...” activity.

KS1 Homework will focus on reading and spelling – applying the rules taught in class and linking to phonics.

KS2 Most of the homework will focus on reading, spelling and appropriate mathematic skills. There will also be some time spent on information gathering and problem solving related to cross-curricular themes.

In Year 6 the children will be set revision tasks in the term before SATs.

Children with special educational needs

It is important that children with special educational needs have an opportunity to benefit from homework appropriate to their needs. This may mean that some children are asked to do homework that is separate from the homework set for the rest of the class. It is, however, important that homework may be common where possible. Homework should not be used as a means of attempting to get children with special needs to “catch up with” the rest of the class.

Who will set homework?

The class teacher will set homework.

Feedback on homework

It is important that homework tasks are worthwhile tasks and that children receive feedback wherever possible. It is not always possible for homework tasks to be marked in great detail.

At school feedback will be given through class and group discussion and through tests e.g. spelling, tables and number bonds.

At home feedback should be given as children do the work or for older children, when they have completed the work. Parents may wish to make a written comment on the homework sheet itself or in the Reading Record book.

Partnership with parents

Homework will be set weekly. It will be sent home each Monday and we ask children and parents / carers to ensure that it is returned by Thursday. Class teachers will offer parents guidance on how they can help their children at home or they will give additional support for children are “stuck” on a piece of work, provided the request for help is made in good time before the Thursday homework return day.