



# St Matthew's Catholic Primary School

## Homework Policy

I try to live like Jesus: I love; I forgive; I pray.  
'Come Follow Me' - Be the best that I can be.

### Introduction

Our school encourages parents to be actively involved in their child's education. One important way that parents can be involved is by helping and encouraging children with the work they bring home. Research shows that support from parents, particularly in reading, helps children reach higher standards of achievement. At St Matthew's, the staff value such support.

### Aims

- To reinforce the learning taking place in school
- To extend the learning taking place in school
- To develop the home/school partnership in a positive way
- To encourage parental involvement in the child's learning
- To foster skills which will enable our children to become independent learners
- To develop a sense of fulfilment and enjoyment in learning
- To develop self-discipline and independence
- To develop good study habits

### Statutory Requirements

There are currently no statutory requirements for the amount of homework that should be set in primary schools.

### Guidelines

Children will take home a variety of tasks during their time at school; the number and frequency of such will be dependent upon the age and needs of the child and the learning which is taking place in school.

## Foundation Stage

Children in Nursery (F1) and Reception (F2) are expected to have regular experiences of sharing and enjoying books with family members, practical maths activities in the home, and developing their communication and language skills through talking about practical experiences they have had.

These practical experiences might include:

- Measuring ingredients while cooking
- Visiting family members
- Looking at labels and prices at the shops
- Going to the park
- Choosing books at a local library

Teachers and our Parental Involvement Worker meet with parents to suggest relevant learning activities for their children.

## Key Stage 1

Children in Years 1 and 2 are expected to complete regular homework. This includes weekly spellings, daily reading and Maths activities, which may include online activities using RMEasimaths, etc. In addition we hope that parents / carers will continue to develop communication and language skills through practical activities.

## Key Stage 2

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are expected to complete regular homework. This includes weekly spellings, daily reading, comprehension activities, grammar and punctuation exercises, and oral and written Maths activities. In addition, RE, Science and topic work relating to the humanities topics being studied may be given; these may include design and technology projects.

Children are regularly given online homework activities, e.g. RM Easimaths, I Am Learning, class blogs, Accelerated Reader, etc, as well as research activities.

In addition we hope that parents / carers will continue to develop communication and language skills through age-appropriate practical activities.

## Supporting children and families

All children are provided with equal access to homework. We provide suitable homework opportunities regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity and socio-economic background.

We acknowledge that different families have access to different resources at home to support them with their homework. Any homework set should be flexible to accommodate children with different resources at home. Any specific resources needed for homework will be provided by teachers or access to these resources will be given in school. Where children

do not have access to online facilities at home, children have the opportunity to complete tasks in school.

Children are always given a number of days to complete homework. These routines are set out by teachers and shared with children and parents / carers at the beginning of the academic year. Children who do not return homework on time are given the opportunity to complete the work during the school day with access to the resources they need. If children repeatedly forget to bring in their homework then teachers will arrange a meeting with parents or carers to discuss the matter.

All homework given is differentiated to meet the needs of the pupils. Teachers ensure that children have the skills and support to complete any homework given. If children struggle with homework, we encourage them to bring their work in to school and the teacher will find time to help them to understand the task. Parents are welcome to talk to teachers about any issues regarding homework.

Homework is marked and either returned home or filed in school and discussed at parents' consultations. The school's reward systems (Monster points, merit shop, Marvellous Me messages, Zone Board, etc) are used to encourage and praise completion of activities and achievement.