

St John Bosco Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

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Statement of intent

St John Bosco Catholic Primary School is a vibrant, enthusiastic, forward-thinking and safe learning environment in which pupils are given every opportunity to complete a fulfilling education.

We believe that homework plays an important part in education and the benefit of doing homework must be instilled at an early age so that independent study can be achieved.

We are also aware that pupils have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. We will give careful consideration to ensuring homework is well-balanced across the school.

This policy aims to:

- Develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- Make sure that teaching staff, parents and pupils are aware of their responsibilities with regards to homework.
- Ensure that parents understand what is expected of their child.
- Encourage pupils to develop the responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- Embed knowledge and support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement.
- Work with parents and involve them in their child's learning, and to keep them informed about the work their child is undertaking.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Extend learning beyond the classroom.
- Give pupils further practise and a deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2019) 'Ways to reduce workload in your school(s)'
- Ofsted (2023) 'School inspection handbook'
- Ofsted (2023) 'School monitoring handbook'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Marking and Feedback Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct
- Behaviour Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Attendance and Absence Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The Executive Principal and governing board will be responsible for:

- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing this policy annually and making appropriate updates as required.
- Discussing with staff the extent to which this policy is being implemented.
- Meeting with parents and discussing the impact of homework as appropriate.
- Providing parents with information about homework.
- Informing new parents about this policy.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of inclusivity and accessibility of homework.

Teachers will be responsible for:

- Planning and setting up a regular programme of homework for pupils.
- Providing an explanation of homework tasks and ensuring that all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Ensuring all homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Setting homework that is appropriate to pupils' abilities.
- Monitoring homework regularly and making sure pupils are completing it.
- Marking homework and giving feedback to pupils.
- Communicating with parents if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Being available to parents and pupils for a discussion about homework.
- Setting homework that is consistent across classes.
- Ensuring homework takes equal opportunities into account and that the needs of pupils with disabilities are considered.
- Rewarding quality work and praising pupils who regularly complete homework.

Parents will be responsible for:

- Supporting and encouraging their child with regards to completing homework.

- Becoming involved in their child's homework and encouraging their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Making sure that their child completes homework to a high standard and on time.
- Providing suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Informing teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operating with the school to find a solution.
- Keeping the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and ability to complete homework effectively.
- Encouraging their child to discuss homework and feedback from teachers.

Pupils will be responsible for:

- Taking responsibility for their own learning and submitting completed work in a timely manner.
- Having a positive approach towards homework.
- Putting the same effort into homework as class work.
- Making sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seeking clarification if required.
- Ensuring that they have everything they need to complete homework and returning to school all books and stationery needed to complete their homework.
- Taking pride in the presentation and content of their homework and performing to the best of their abilities.

3. The school's approach to homework

The school understands that setting, marking and providing feedback on homework is a large contributor to the workload of teachers; therefore, teachers will ensure that homework is only set to positively impact pupils' progress.

Prior to homework being set, teachers will ask themselves, 'Why am I setting this homework?' and 'How will this homework be useful to the pupil?' If the answers to these questions do not reflect a positive impact on pupils' learning, teachers will use their professional judgement and decide whether the homework is necessary.

Teachers will explain the school's approach to homework to parents at the class parent meeting in September.

Pupils will use homework books to complete their homework to keep their homework neat and organised.

Pupils will receive homework on a weekly basis which will be returned at the time and date each week. Homework is set in all classes on a Thursday and needs to be returned by the following Tuesday.

Pupils' weekly homework activity will gradually increase as the children get older through the school.

Homework will be marked every week and returned to the pupil.

Parents will be encouraged to discuss any errors with their child. If they have any queries, they should make an appointment to see their child's teacher. Feedback from parents about their child's homework will also be welcomed by the school.

Teachers will occasionally set extra homework for the whole class if they deem it beneficial.

The table below shows expected homework. Tasks may be set in addition to the below activities.

Year group	Homework
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Tricky words practice • Phonics • One other activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Tricky words practice/phonics • Number bonds work • Literacy/numeracy – 1 piece each week
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Tricky words practice/phonics • Number bonds work • Literacy/numeracy – 1 piece each week
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Spellings and times tables – 5 minutes each day • Literacy/numeracy – 1 piece each week • Reading Plus – aim for 30 minutes per week
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Spellings and times tables – 5 minutes each day • Literacy/numeracy – 1 piece each week • Reading Plus – aim for 30 minutes per week
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Spellings – 5 minutes each day • Literacy – 1 piece each week • Numeracy – 1 piece each week • Reading Plus – aim for 30 minutes per week
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Spellings – 5 minutes each day • Literacy – 1 piece each week • Numeracy – 1 piece each week • Reading Plus – aim for 30 minutes per week

4. Absences

If a pupil is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will not supply work for these periods – pupils should be well enough to undertake any work supplied.

There may be exceptions to the above and the classroom teacher will decide whether homework should be set on a case-by-case basis.

If a pupil is absent for a long period of time, the teacher and the parents of the pupil will agree on what should be done and how much help should be provided.

Catch-up support will be provided to absent pupils in order to help them catch-up with homework.

Absences when homework is set and due will be managed in line with the school's Attendance and Absence Policy.

5. Pupils who fail to complete homework

All pupils will be expected to complete homework on time.

Teachers will keep records of pupils completing homework which are regularly checked.

If pupils fail to complete homework, teachers will contact parents to find what the reason for this is.

Teachers will make efforts to support pupils who are struggling to complete homework and will raise any concerns regarding their pupils' ability to complete homework to the Head of School and/or parents as appropriate.

Pupils who refuse to complete homework will be disciplined in line with the Behaviour Policy. Children may be asked to go to 'Time Out' to complete their homework.

6. Marking homework

Homework will be marked in accordance with the school's Marking and Feedback Policy.

In general, homework will be marked with ticks and brief comments will be made concerning the pupil's next steps. Praise is paramount. Stickers, stamps and house points will be used generously.

Occasionally, homework will be marked orally with the pupil or class.

7. Pupils with SEND

A balanced approach to homework will be adopted for pupils with SEND, in consultation with the pupil's parents and the SENCO.

Where appropriate, the school will set adjusted or specific tasks for pupils with SEND as outlined in their individual education plans.

While pupils with SEND may benefit from differentiated tasks separate from the homework received by other pupils, they will also complete as much standard homework as possible.

Pupils with SEND will be supported in accordance with the school's SEND Policy.

8. Equal opportunities

The school will ensure that it provides the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, sex, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity and social, cultural or religious background.

All pupils will have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability.

9. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Executive Principal.

Any updates to this policy will be shared with parents, pupils and staff.