

ALL SAINTS'C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL, ALREWAS.

HOMEWORK POLICY.

“Homework is important at all stages in a child's education when used properly, it extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximum effect.”

1996/1997 OFSTED Annual Report.

What is Homework?

Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to undertake outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

What is the purpose of homework?

- to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- to extend school learning, for example through additional reading
- to prepare for learning to be undertaken in school
- to exploit additional resources for learning of all kinds, at home and in the wider environment
- to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school
- to encourage children as they get older to develop the confidence and selfdiscipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of later education.

How much homework should be set?

Children work hard at school during the school day. Many children also follow a range of extra-curricular activities such as music and sport, and belong to clubs and groups that meet at the end of the school day. Children also need time to rest, relax and play when school has finished. Homework activities will therefore be planned and co-ordinated so that demands on pupils are balanced and manageable. Teachers will usually aim to set homework activities on the first day of each week so that children and parents normally have more than one day to complete activities (apart from reading which should be done daily if possible). Occasionally it may be necessary for a child to complete a piece of work on the same day, but consideration will always be given if parents feel this is not possible.

Recommended time allocations for homework" including reading

Reception 30 minutes per week or 5 minutes per day

Year 1 50 minutes per week or 10 minutes per day

Year 2 1 hour per week or 12 minutes per day

Year 3 1.5 hours per week or 15 minutes per day

Year 4 1.75 hours per week or 20 minutes per day

Year 5 2 hours per week or 25 minutes per day

Year 6 2.5 hours per week or 30 minutes per day

Daily reading will usually form part of these time allocations and on days when other activities are set, children should also be encouraged to read for between 5 and 20 minutes, according to their age. These allocations refer to the school week, i.e. five days, but in the top classes work may also be set for completion at weekends.

What type of activities should be set for homework?

These will be focused on literacy and numeracy, with some additional activities related to topic work from Year 3 upwards.

Homework Activities:

Reception Sharing books, learning key words

Year 1 Reading, sharing books, learning key words and spellings, number bonds

Year 2 Reading, sharing books, learning spellings, number bonds and tables, maths activities.

Year 3 Reading, learning weekly spellings, learning weekly tables and number bonds. Maths activities. Occasional research for topics.

Year 4	Reading, learning weekly spellings, learning weekly tables, Maths activities. Occasional research or writing for topics
Year 5	Reading, learning weekly spellings, learning weekly tables, Maths and English activities. Research and writing for topics
Year 6	Reading, learning weekly spellings, learning weekly tables, Maths and Writing activities, research, revision. Independent topic.

Individual class teachers are responsible for ensuring the demands of homework are manageable for children on a daily basis. Usually, class teachers will allow more than one evening for homework to be completed, depending on the nature of the task. Occasionally, teachers may require children to complete work, which was started in class time.

What is the role of parents in supporting children's homework?

Parents should try to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which the child can do their homework, alone or with an adult, as appropriate;

Parents should support their children with homework activities whenever possible. For instance, hearing their children read or sharing books with them, helping them to learn spellings and tables or assisting them in locating information for researching a topic. If parents can become actively involved in joint learning activities with their children this is very beneficial for the child;

Parents should make it clear to children that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;

Parents could encourage children and praise them when they have completed their homework.

How can parents and school keep in touch about homework?

The school will try to keep parents informed about the homework requirements for each class. This policy sets out the type of activities and the amounts of time required for each class. In addition to this, parents will be informed about the topics to be studied each half term in the weekly Friday newsletter.

Class teachers will inform parents on a weekly basis about the homework tasks set. This will be as follows:

Reception: through the existing Reading Record Books

Years 1 -5: through a weekly homework diary sheet, sent home on Monday each week (Classes 1 -5) or Thursday (Class 4)

Year 6: through a daily homework diary, completed by the children themselves.

This system will be trialled for a term and reviewed in January 2000.

We strongly encourage parents to complete the home reading record diaries to provide the schools with feedback on the progress children are making at home. Parents can also use this mechanism to comment on other homework activities e.g. spellings or tables. Parents are welcome to discuss any problems or concerns about homework with their child's class teacher at a mutually convenient time.

What feedback do children get about their homework?

This depends very much on the nature of the task. Reading is monitored in school on a regular basis and children will receive feedback on their performance whenever they read out loud. The results of spellings and tables tests are shared with the children so that they can see how they have performed. Other homework may be used to assist with future learning, or may be marked and /or discussed with the child as appropriate. Homework activities may also be shared with other children in the class as part of a subsequent lesson.

Please note that homework set in primary schools is different from that set in secondary schools. It is generally less formal and more activity based. Not all homework activities will receive a 'mark' or a 'grade'. although some will. It is worth pointing out that primary teachers have no non-contact time for the marking and setting of homework, as their colleagues in secondary schools do!

Parents will be informed of their children's progress at regular Parent Consultation evenings and through annual written reports. If there is concern over an individual child's progress, parents will be informed sooner.

What should parents do if they have a problem with their child's homework?

In the first instance, parents should refer to the child's class teacher for advice and support, A good time to contact most of our staff is at 3.30 p.m., but it is a good idea to phone for an appointment first. If the class teacher is unable to deal with the query, it will be referred to the headteacher.

What about children with Special Educational Needs?

School staff are very aware that some children will not be able to manage the range of homework activities set for most of the class. Children who have Special Educational Needs will be given homework activities appropriate to their abilities. Children who have a Statement of Special Need may have activities set by their support assistant or tutor.

How was this policy drawn up?

In the Summer term 1999 all parents were consulted on homework by a questionnaire. 90 parents responded to this and their views were taken into account when determining the policy. In particular, parents' views on the type of homework set, the amount of homework and how it should be communicated to parents were all taken into account. Teaching staff and Governors were also consulted during the same period.

How will this policy be evaluated?

The school will review this policy annually through the Governors' Curriculum Committee. Parents will also be consulted through the Home/ School Partnership Group. The criteria used to review the policy will relate to the progress made by pupils and their attitudes to learning, and the views of a sample of parents on the implementation of the policy.

August 1999

Reviewed September 2001

Reviewed September 2003

Reviewed September 2005

ALL SAINTS' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL,ALREWAS

CLASS X WEEKLY HOMEWORK DIARY SHEET

Name

Week commencing

SUBJECT	ACTIVITY	DUE IN BY/TEST ON
INDIVIDUAL READING	You should try to read for at least minutes every night	Record it in your reading record book
SPELLINGS		
NUMBER BONDS AND TABLES		
MATHS ACTIVITIES		
OTHER ACTIVITIES		

In Year X, children are expected to do between XX minutes and XX minutes homework per week, including reading. Please support your child with their homework.

SignedPerson with parental responsibility

