



# St Mary's

## Home Learning Policy

### One Family – Achieving more together

**UNCRC Article 29: Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.**

#### 1 Introduction

1.1 Home learning is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Home learning encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support children's learning. For example, a parent/carer who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with home learning.

#### 2 Rationale for home learning

2.1 Home learning is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents/carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed, we see home learning as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents/carers. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. Home learning is one of the ways in which children can develop the skills to learn for themselves and therefore to develop their understanding further.

2.2 We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While home learning is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

#### 3 Aims and objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of home learning are:

- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to investigate/explore new ideas;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.
- to develop 'good home learning habits.'
- to enable children to explore Christian values and UNCRC articles in everyday life

## **4 Types of home learning**

4.1 We set a variety of home learning activities, usually through Google Classroom, which could include:

- Reading
- Preparing a presentation to the class
- Finding out information
- Making something
- Topic related learning
- E-learning – Education City, Mathletics, Times Tables Rock Stars
- Other activities to develop skills in reading, writing and maths

4.2 As the children move through the school we continue to give them the sort of home learning activities outlined in paragraph 4.1 but we expect them to do more tasks independently.

## **5 Amount of home learning**

5.1 We increase the amount of home learning that we give the children as they move through the school. In line with government guidelines, we expect children in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes a week (or 15–20 minutes per night) on home learning and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 2 hours 30 minutes a week (or 30 minutes per night). This would include our target of children reading five times a week both to and with an adult as well as independent reading and time spent learning times tables.

## **6 Pupils with special educational needs**

6.1 We set home learning for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can achieve.

## **7 The role of parents/carers**

7.1 Parents/carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and home learning is an important part of this process. We ask parents/carers to encourage their child to complete the home learning tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.

Parents/carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home and by discussing the learning that their child is doing.

7.2 All reading, to an adult and that done independently, needs to be recorded in the reading record with written acknowledgement by an adult and comments made where appropriate. Independent reading can also be signed by the child themselves.

7.3 Home learning activities are generally set on a Friday and are usually set through Google Classrooms. If there are any problems or questions about the home learning either the child or parent/carer should discuss the task with the class teacher as soon as possible for further help and support. Ideally any concerns should be raised with the class teacher prior to the hand in date of any home learning.

7.4 Specific focussed practise activities may also be set to ensure newly taught skills are embedded e.g. calculation strategies, vocabulary, spellings, and multiplication tables. Children may be asked to complete these a number of times over a short period of time and may be sent home in the form of a Skills Practice Card.

7.5 If parents/carers have any further problems with home learning they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Year Group Leader.

7.6 Home learning should not become a 'battle' for anyone at home or cause stress for the child or parent/carer. Should this happen we encourage parents/careers to take a break from it and come back to it another time or leave it altogether and discuss any problems with the class teacher as soon as possible. Support for parents/carers with home learning is also provided through:

- The school's website.
- Annual year group advice letter about home reading
- Autumn term Year group briefings for parents/carers
- Maths calculation strategies booklet (available on the school's website)
- Year group newsletters
- Home learning posted on Google Classrooms

## **8 Monitoring and review**

8.1 It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school home learning policy. This is done by the Learning and Ethos Committee.

Reviewed: July 2022

Date for Review: September 2023