HOMEWORK POLICY

OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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APPROVED BY:

DATE: September 2026

REVIEW DATE: September 2028

Rationale

At Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School, we believe that homework is an essential part of learning that supports children's progress. Homework has several different functions; it can be used to consolidate learning that has taken part in class, acquire knowledge, develop skills or work towards mastery.

When children begin at the school, parents or carers sign a home/school agreement whereby parental roles and responsibilities are outlined. This agreement references the completion of homework and it is encouraged that children are supported at home. At Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School, homework tasks are set termly to reinforce and extend learning.

Aims

The school views the purpose of homework as:

- Developing an effective and supportive partnership between the school, parents and community in realising the aims of the school.
- Consolidating and reinforcing knowledge and understanding, particularly in Writing, Reading and Numeracy.
- Exploring resources for learning in the home environment.
- Extending and complementing school work while supporting independent study skills.
- Developing pupils' skills of organisation and self-discipline and preparing pupils for the demands of their future studies.
- Engaging in wider learning around the core topics studied in school.

Homework in the Early Years and Foundation Stage

Homework is given weekly alongside the Nursery and Reception newsletters.

Reception

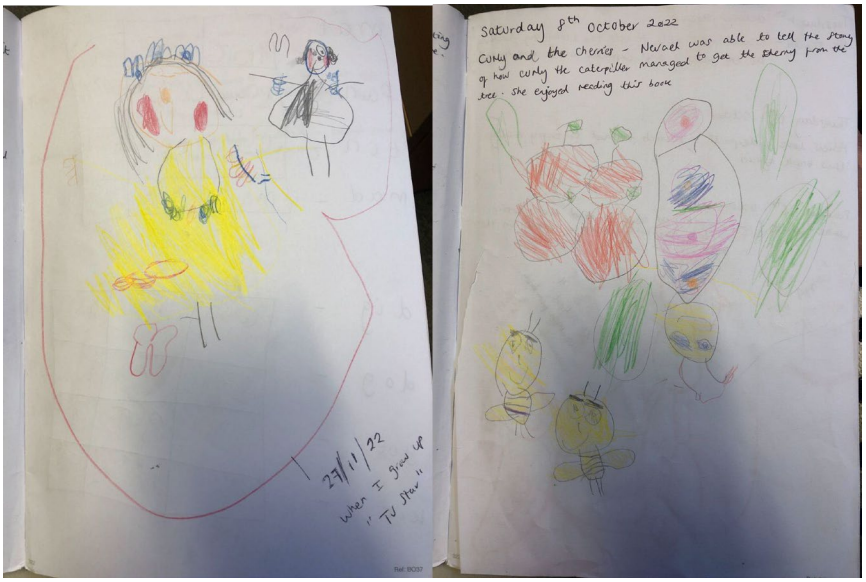
In Reception the children receive weekly phonics, high frequency words, and maths homework to build upon their learning in class each week.

RE

Reading

Children are encouraged to read nightly with an adult. Children will take two books home from the class library. In Reception, children's books will match their phonics level and they will also take a book home to read for pleasure. Every child has a Bug Club login, which is an online reading programme with a range of decodable books to support their phonics acquisition. Children are encouraged to record their learning in their Reading Explorer Book, this can be through a picture, sentence or collage. See examples below:

Reception



Literacy

The literacy homework consists of weekly handwriting, letter sound recognition and a short phonics activity to support blending and segmenting skills for reading. The children also receive up to five of the 45 Reception High Frequency words to practise writing and reading by sight each week.

Children are encouraged to practise their handwriting at home through using letterjoins to support their letter formation and fluency. All children have a login to https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/log-in.html and can choose a range of free play handwriting activities or join their classes to engage in handwriting activities set by their teachers. They are also provided with a handwriting pack specific to each year group.

Maths

The maths homework is always practical and parents are encouraged to use everyday items at home to support their child to develop the mathematical skills they have been learning in class each week.

Topic projects

The children have a creative homework project every half term, which is based around the year group topic. We encourage parents to support their child to research an interest they may have in our topic and to create a poster or model etc to share in class as part of a celebration day at the end of each half term.

Transition to Year 1

In the summer term the children receive a weekly writing activity based on the shared writing activity in class and the maths homework becomes a little more formal, in the style of a worksheet, to prepare the children for the transition to year 1.

Nursery

The children receive practical phase 1 phonics activities to develop their listening, attention, and early phonics skills, and maths activities which build upon their weekly learning in Nursery. All activities are practical, encouraging parents to support their child's learning using resources at home and in the local community.

Reading

Children are encouraged to read nightly with an adult. The children take one core Nursery story book home each week to read for pleasure with an adult. Children are encouraged to record their learning in their Reading Explorer Book, this can be through a picture, sentence or collage. See examples below:

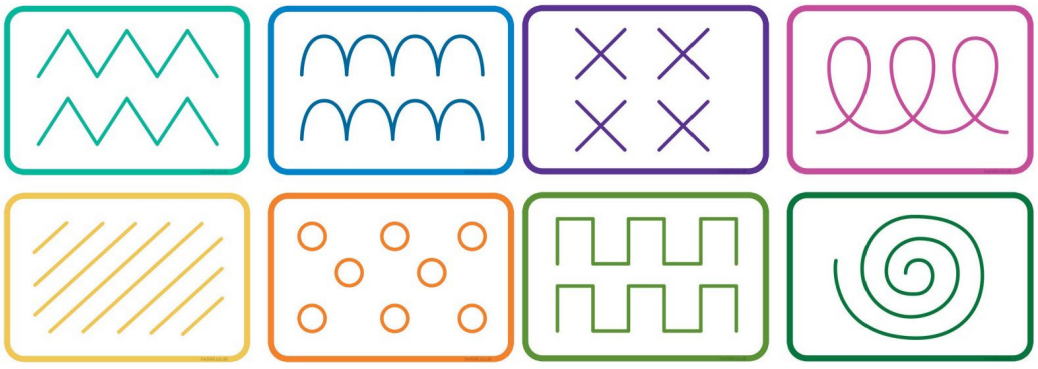
Nursery



Mark making

In the Autumn Term we have a weekly 'Mark of the Week' in class and we encourage the children to practise making the mark of the week using a range of creative resources to hand at home. Parents are also encouraged to support their child to practise writing their name with the correct letter formation. Laminated name templates are sent home at the beginning of the year and children progress from tracing their name, to copying their name, to then writing it independently.

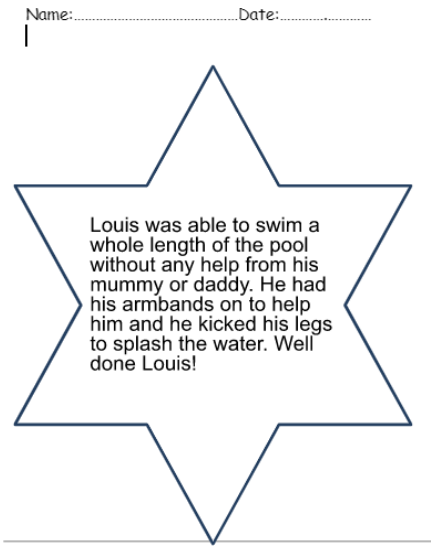
Some examples of 'Mark of the Week':



Sharing Stars from home

Parents can share their child's new learning with staff by completing the 'Stars from Home' templates. We encourage them to share learning and development across the curriculum, such as learning to get dressed more independently, swimming achievements, counting skills etc. The stars are shared in class and celebrated on a display in Nursery.

An example of 'Stars from Home':



Homework in Key Stage 1

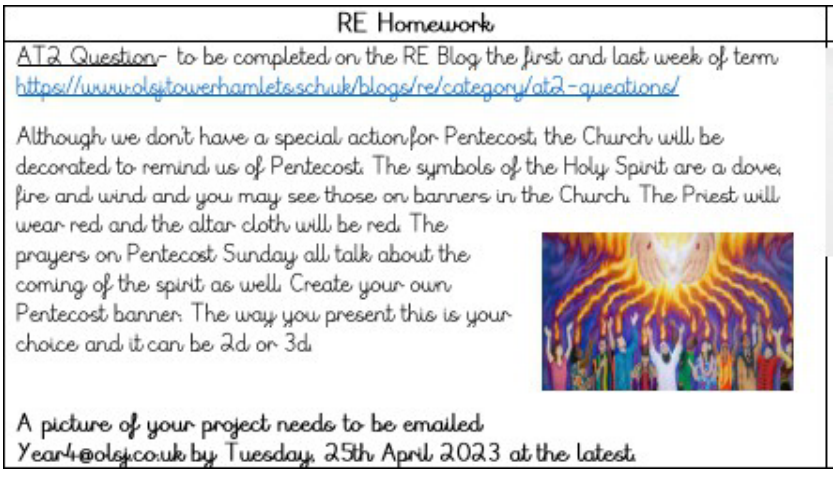
Homework is given out termly and is split into two components: core homework and complementing activities.

Core Homework:

RE

Children receive RE homework in each half term. Firstly, they will need to complete their AT2 question on the RE blog both the first and last week of term.

There will also be a whole school project to complete each half-term based on our RE learning or our wider school mission.


RE Homework

AT2 Question- to be completed on the RE Blog the first and last week of term
https://www.olgtowerhamlets.sch.uk/blogs/re/category/at2-questions/

Although we don't have a special action for Pentecost, the Church will be decorated to remind us of Pentecost. The symbols of the Holy Spirit are a dove, fire and wind and you may see those on banners in the Church. The Priest will wear red and the altar cloth will be red. The prayers on Pentecost Sunday all talk about the coming of the spirit as well. Create your own Pentecost banner. The way you present this is your choice and it can be 2d or 3d.

A picture of your project needs to be emailed Year4@olg.co.uk by Tuesday, 25th April 2023 at the latest.

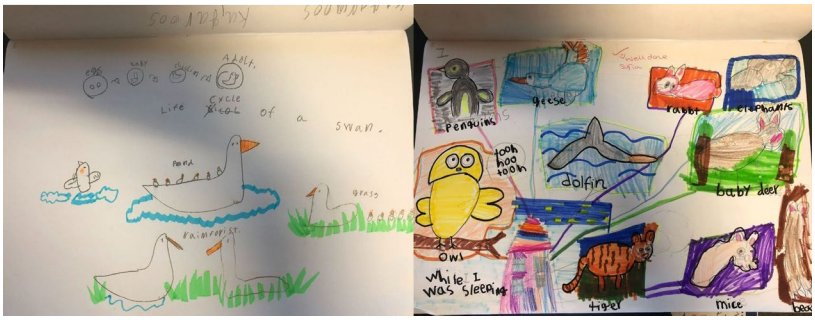
Reading

Children are encouraged to read nightly with an adult. Children will take three books home from the class library. In Year 1, children's books will match their phonics level, they will also take home a comprehension 'tree-level' book as well as a core book to read for pleasure. Every child has a Bug Club login, which is an online reading programme with a range of decodable books to support their phonics acquisition. Children are encouraged to record their learning in their Reading Explorer Book, this can be through a picture, sentence or collage. See examples below:

Year 1



Year 2



Literacy

In Year 1, children receive up to 100 High Frequency words (HFW) to practise writing and reading by sight - these will be split into 5 each week. The amount given will slowly increase the more confident your child becomes. The aim is for your child to be competent in reading and writing the first 100 HFW's by the end of year 1.

Once children are confident with reading and writing the first 100 HFW, they will then move on to the next 200 and 300 High Frequency Word lists. Children will continue to receive 5 spellings per week from these lists.

Handwriting

Children are encouraged to practise their handwriting at home through using letterjoins to support their letter formation and fluency. All children have a login to https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/log-in.html and can choose a range of free play handwriting activities or join their classes to engage in handwriting activities set by their teachers. They are also provided with a handwriting pack specific to each year group.

Maths

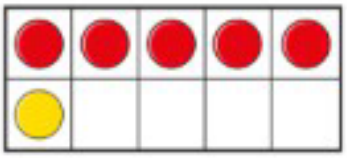
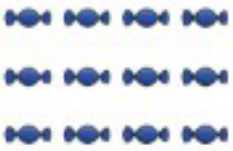
Numbots and Times Table Rockstars

Every child has a login for Numbots which is an online learning tool to secure children's mathematical knowledge. Children should also login to TTRS (Times Tables Rock Star) regularly with a focus on their x2, x3, x5, x10 times tables facts.

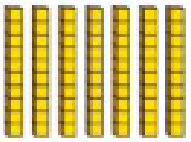
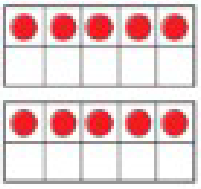
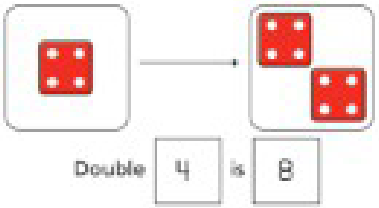
Key Instant Recall Facts

Every half term for Maths, children will need to regularly practise the KIRF (Key Instant Recall Facts) for their year group. These will be put on each year's group blog and a text sent out to parents so that they can support with learning these facts. There will be a diagnostic test at the beginning of each half term and a summative assessment at the end of each half term to monitor the progress.

Year 1 KIRF

Half term	KIRF Key Instant Recall Facts	What does this KIRF look like?
Autumn 1	I can read and write numbers to 10 in numerals	five = 5
Autumn 2	I know number bonds to 10	How many more makes 10? 
Spring 1	I can compare numbers to 10 using < > and =	True or false? 7 > 10
Spring 2	I can count in 2s and I know doubles and halves to 10	What is this number?  What is double 2? 
Summer 1	I can make and talk about simple arrays	How many rows are there? How many sweets are there in each row? 
Summer 2	I can find ¼ and ½ of a quantity	Which cake is cut in half? How do you know? 

Year 2 KIRF

Half term	KIRF Key Instant Recall Facts	What does this KIRF look like?
Autumn 1	I know number bonds for each number to 20	2 + 18 = 20 20 = 18 + 2
Autumn 2	I can count, read and write numbers to 100 in numerals	What number is shown? Write the total in numerals and words. 
Spring 1	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 2 times table	Five groups of two equals ten 5 x 2 = 10 There are 5 groups of 10 frogs. There are 10 frogs in total. 
Spring 2	I know multiplication and division facts for the 5 times table	What 5 times table fact is shown? 5 x 2 = 10 
Summer 1	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 10 times table	The multiplication fact that matches the bar model is 4 x 10 = 40 
Summer 2	I know doubles and halves of numbers to 20	

Home work in Key Stage 2

Core Homework

Spelling

At the start of each term, children are given spellings that are split into each week. The expectation is that children practise their spellings weekly and are tested on these at school. The spelling lists have been taken from the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Handwriting

Children are encouraged to practise their handwriting at home through using letterjoins to support their letter formation and fluency. All children have a login to https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/log-in.html and can choose a range of free play handwriting activities or join their classes to engage in handwriting activities set by their teachers. They are also provided with a handwriting pack specific to each year group.

Reading

In Key Stage 2, children take home two books - one which matches their zone of proximal development on Accelerated Reader and a book for enjoyment. Children use Accelerated Reader, which is an online learning tool, to aid their reading development and must complete a test when they have finished each book.

Vocabulary

Year 5 and 6 have access to Bedrock- Bedrock Learning is a digital literacy improvement curriculum designed for learners for study at home.

Maths

Numbots and Times Table Rockstars

Every child has a login for Numbots which is an online learning tool to secure children's mathematical knowledge. Children should also login to TTRS (Times Tables Rock Star) regularly with a focus on developing their times tables and corresponding division facts.

Years 3 and 4 are also encouraged to use Mathsframe to support learning their times tables.

Maths

Every half term for Maths, children will need to regularly practise the KIRF (Key Instant Recall Facts) for their year group. These will be put on each year's group blog and a text sent out to parents so that parents can support with learning these facts. There will be a diagnostic test at the beginning of each half term and a summative assessment at the end of each half term to monitor the progress.

Year 3 KIRF

Half term	KIRF Key Instant Recall Facts	What does this KIRF look like?
Autumn 1	I know number bonds to 100	20 + 80 = 100 23 + 77 = 100 100 - ? = 45 100 – 55 = 45
Autumn 2	I can count in multiples of 50 and 100	List the first five multiples of 50: 50, 100, 150, 200, 250 List the first five multiples of 100: 100, 200, 300, 400, 500
Spring 1	I can find 10 or 100 more or less than a given number	How many lollipops are there in total? 
Spring 2	I know multiplication and division facts for the 3 times table	I know that 3 groups of 3 equals 9 
Summer 1	I know the multiplication and division facts for the 4 times table	16 pears shared between 4 bags equals 3 pears in each bag 
Summer 2	I know multiplication and division facts for the 8 times table	4 groups of 8 = 32 There are 32 grapes 

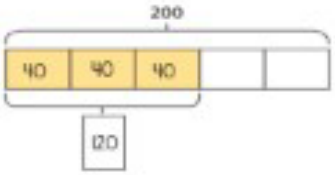
Year 4 KIRF

Half term	KIRF Key Instant Recall Facts	What does this KIRF look like?
Autumn 1	I know multiplication and division facts for the 6 times table	There are 4 boxes. There are 6 eggs in each box. There are 24 eggs in total. 4 x 6 = 24 
Autumn 2	I know multiplication and division facts for the 9 and 11 times tables	• I know that 9 groups of 9 equals 81 • I know that 11 multiplied by 6 equals 66 • I know that 27 shared by 9 equals 3 • I know that 88 ÷ 11 = 8
Spring 1	I know multiplication and division facts for the 7 times table	• I know that seven lots of seven totals forty-nine • I know that 21 ÷ 7 = 3 • I know that 7 x 4 = 28 • I know that 42 divided by 7 equals 6
Spring 2	I know multiplication and division facts for the 12 times table	• I know that 12 x 12 = 144 • I know that 144 divided by 12 = 12 • I know that twelve groups of seven equals eighty-four • I know that 7 groups of 12 equals 84
Summer 1	I know the multiplication and division facts for all times tables up to 12 × 12	I can calculate all times table facts to 12 x 12 and all linked division facts with speed and accuracy. What is 6 x 8? What is 49 ÷ 7? How many nines make thirty-six?
Summer 2	I can identify equivalent fractions	½ = 3/6 

Year 5 KIRF

Half term	KIRF Key Instant Recall Facts	What does this KIRF look like?
Autumn 1	I can round numbers to 1 million to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000	Round 382,929 to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000 Nearest 10 = 382,930 Nearest 100 = 382,900 Nearest 1,000 = 383,000
Autumn 2	I can identify multiples and factors up to 12x12	List the first 5 multiples of 8: 8, 16, 24, 32, 40 Find the factors of 40: 1 x 40, 2 x 20, 4 x 10, 5 x 8
Spring 1	I can identify prime numbers up to 50	Primes have two factors: themselves and 1. The first 5 primes are: 2, 3, 5, 7 and 11
Spring 2	I can recall square numbers up to 12^2 and their square roots	4 x 4 = 16 $4^2 = 16$ $\sqrt{16} = 4$ 
Summer 1	I know the first 5 cube numbers	2 x 2 x 2 = 8 $2^3 = 8$ 
Summer 2	I can convert between improper fractions and mixed fractions	$1\ 2/3 = 5/3$ $15/4 = 3\ 3/4$

Year 6 KIRF

Half term	KIRF Key Instant Recall Facts	What does this KIRF look like?
Autumn 1	I can count in powers of 10, forwards and backwards with numbers to 10 million	Count forwards in five steps of 10 from 1,200,000 1,200,010, 1,200,020, 1,200,030, 1,200,040, 1,200,050
Autumn 2	I can identify common factors of a pair of numbers	The common factors of 24 and 56 are 1, 2, 4 and 8 the highest common factor of 24 and 56 is 8
Spring 1	I can find fractions of amounts	3/5 of 200 = 120 
Spring 2	I know common fraction, decimal and percentage equivalences	½ = 0.5 = 50% ¼ = 0.25 = 25% ¾ = 0.75 = 75% 1/10 = 0.1 = 10% 3/10 = 0.3 = 30% 1/5 = 0.2 = 20% 3/5 = 0.6 = 60% 1/100 = 0.01 = 1%
Summer 1	I can divide and multiply by 10, 100 and 1,000	4214 ÷ 10 = 421.4 4214 ÷ 100 = 42.14 4214 ÷ 1,000 = 0.4214 4214 x 10 = 42,140 4214 x 100 = 421,400 4214 x 1,000 = 4,214,000
Summer 2	I can find simple percentages of amounts (1%, 5%, 10% etc.)	Find 10% of £123 10% = £123 ÷ 10 = £12.30

Half-termly Homework Projects

Each half term the children will be set a half termly

project Complementing Activities

The second part of our homework is our complementing activities. These are centred around the termly topics for each year group and aim to accompany and extend learning. For this section of homework, children are encouraged to choose the order in which they complete the activities at home. These activities aim to develop home study habits and increase independence.

The activities are cross curricular and focus on the themes of:

- Writing
- Maths
- History
- Geography
- Technical skills
- Health and wellbeing
- Collaboration
- Outside learning

See some examples of homework activities in Year 1 and 4:

Spring Term Homework – Year 1: Kings and Queens

Core Homework

You must practise your spellings weekly and will be tested.	Practise your handwriting on https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/log-in.html Letter-join	Complete your half termly project!
Practise your times tables using TTRS.	Read nightly with an adult and record your ideas in your Reading Explorer Book.	Complete your maths instant recall facts weekly and use Numbots to support your maths learning. NUMBOTS

This term in Year 1 we will be learning about kings and queens. Here are some activities you can complete at home to support your learning. Choose three (or more!) activities you can complete as a family and tick the square after you have completed it.

Let's Get Technical Draw a timeline for the kings and queens of Britain. Can you work out who ruled for the longest time? ☐	**Out and About** Visit your local library and find some non-fiction books about China. ☐	**Writing** Write an acrostic poem about kings or queens. ☐
Health and Well-Being Design a feast fit for a king or queen. ☐		**Let's Be Historians** Choose a king or queen of Britain and do some research about them. ☐
Maths Write some addition number sentences involving kings and queens. ☐	**Geographical Explorers** A country that has a king or queen is called a monarchy. Research how many countries in the world are a monarchy. ☐	**Working with Others** Make a crown fit for a king or queen! ☐
Half Termly Project!		
Next half term in Science we will be learning about Seasonal Changes. Please make a season box. 		

Spring Term Homework – Year 4: Protect our Planet

Core Homework

You must practise your spellings weekly and will be tested. Complete your maths instant recall facts weekly.	Practise your handwriting on https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/log-in.html Letter-join and complete your handwriting pack.	Complete your half termly project and RE homework project!
MATHS FRAME Practise your times tables using TTRS or Maths Frame. https://ttrockstars.com/ https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check	Read for 20 minutes per evening and complete two Accelerated Reader tests a week. You can take a book home or use MYON! Accelerated Reader	Use Numbots to support your Maths learning. NUMBOTS https://numbots.com/

This term in Year 4 our topic is Protect our Planet! Here are some activities you can complete at home to support your learning. Choose three (or more!) activities you can complete as a family and tick the square after you have completed it.

Let's Get Technical! What is deforestation? Research. Find out and write about how it affects people, animals and plants.	**Health and Well-Being!** How is looking after the rainforests important for the world's eco-system? Can you do some research and create a poster or write some statements to explain the main points?	**Geographical Explorers** Learn about the different layers of the rainforest. Make notes or talk about what lives in each level and area.
Writing Listen to the story of Greta and the Giants. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGccpeALIg M&t=1s&ab_channel=StorytimewithMimi%26Me Imagine you were able to interview Greta. What questions would you ask? Write a list of 5.		**Let's Be Musicians!** Write a song about the water cycle to teach others how it works. Why not use Mr Scott and Mr Hickin's as an example: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGmFpVLI5QA&list=UULPWK5sLMJASOJwaPNGnaBHw Don't forget to hand in your music lyrics to your class teacher.
Let's be Artists! Design your own sculpture using recycled materials!	**Maths** Create a bar graph comparing the average rainfall in your area to that of the rainforests.	**Computing** Use Scratch to build a game in which an environmental superhero has to save the planet from pollution. Send screen shots to year4@olej.co.uk

Purpose and Expectations of Homework

Homework at Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School is intended to consolidate learning, develop independence, strengthen the partnership between home and school and provide opportunities for pupils to practise and apply their knowledge and skills. Homework should be purposeful, accessible and proportionate to the age and needs of pupils and should not create unnecessary anxiety for children or families.

Requirements of the Class Teacher

In setting, supporting and reviewing homework, teachers will:

- Ensure homework is provided on a half-termly basis**,** with clear expectations and deadlines, and uploaded to the school website.
- Ensure homework consolidates or extends learning already taught in school and is appropriate to pupils' age, stage and curriculum.
- Give pupils a reasonable amount of time to complete homework and ensure expectations are proportionate and manageable**.**

- Ensure pupils understand the homework before it is sent home and know what successful completion looks like.
- Monitor pupils' spelling through weekly tests, where applicable.
- Adapt homework appropriately to ensure it is accessible to all pupils, including pupils with SEND and those working below or above age-related expectations.
- Provide clear guidance for parents and carers, including instructions, examples and relevant web links where appropriate.
- Give pupils appropriate feedback and recognition for homework completion.
- Celebrate high-quality homework and half-termly projects through classroom displays, praise, House Points or other school reward systems.
- Monitor homework completion and follow up patterns of non-completion supportively**,** considering any barriers the child or family may be experiencing.
- Ensure that pupils are not disadvantaged because of limited access to technology, resources or adult support at home**,** providing reasonable alternatives or school-based support where necessary.
- Ensure that websites, apps and online resources recommended for homework are age-appropriate and suitable for pupils.
- Ensure homework is checked in line with the school's Marking and Feedback Policy**.**
- Raise ongoing concerns regarding homework with parents/carers and, where appropriate, the Phase Leader.

Parents and Carers

At Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School, we recognise the importance of developing a strong partnership between school, parents/carers and pupils in order to support children's learning.

Parents and carers will be encouraged to:

- Support and encourage their child to complete homework regularly and to the best of their ability.
- Provide an appropriate time and space for homework, where reasonably possible.
- Encourage independence and allow their child to complete tasks themselves, providing appropriate support rather than completing homework on their behalf.
- Read to or listen to their child read regularly, in line with year-group expectations.
- Be proactive in supporting their child's learning at home.
- Use the guidance provided by school to support homework and home learning.
- Inform the class teacher if their child is regularly finding homework too difficult, taking an unreasonable amount of time to complete it or experiencing barriers to completing it**.**
- Liaise respectfully and promptly with their child's class teacher regarding any concerns about homework.
- Support the school's expectations regarding the safe and appropriate use of online resources**.**
- Support the school's Homework Policy as part of the Home-School Agreement.

Parents and carers will receive feedback about their child's engagement with homework where appropriate, including through feedback, parent meetings and annual reports.

Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

Homework for pupils with SEND will take account of pupils' individual needs, starting points and provision**.** Teachers will make reasonable adjustments and provide appropriate scaffolds so that homework is accessible and enables pupils to experience success while continuing to develop independence.

Where appropriate, homework may reinforce personal targets identified within an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or other individual support plan. The purpose of homework for pupils with SEND remains to consolidate and extend learning in a way that is appropriate and achievable for the individual child.

No pupil should be disadvantaged because of SEND, additional needs, limited access to technology or resources, or circumstances at home. Where barriers are identified, the school will work with the pupil and family to identify appropriate support, reasonable adjustments or alternative arrangements.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Senior Leadership Team will regularly review the implementation and impact of the Homework Policy on behalf of the Governing Body and alongside the wider staff team.

The quality, consistency and accessibility of homework provision will be monitored through planning and work scrutiny, website checks, pupil voice, parent feedback and professional discussions with staff**.**

Leaders will consider whether homework is purposeful, appropriately challenging, accessible to all pupils and proportionate to the age and needs of children**.** Monitoring will also consider the impact of homework expectations on pupil wellbeing, individual family circumstances and staff workload**.**

The policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that homework continues to support the school's commitment to enabling every child to thrive