

St Christopher's C.E. Primary School Homework POLICY

1. MISSION STATEMENT

'Learning and Growing Together'.

2. AIMS

Every child in the school will be given some form of homework on a weekly basis. The term 'homework' refers to any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside of lesson time. This may be done on their own, or with the help of parents/carers.

Through this policy we aim to:

- Give a formal structure to the work carried out by pupils outside lesson time
- Give a consistency of approach throughout the school
- Develop an effective partnership between school and parents/carers
- Give parents and their children a clear understanding of the school's expectations
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding – particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Encourage pupils to work towards studying independently
- Raise standards in literacy and numeracy
- Ensure that homework planned is manageable for pupils, parents and teachers

As pupils progress through the school, the purposes of homework will change. In EYFS, Years 1 and 2, the emphasis is on developing a partnership with parents or carers and involving them in their child's learning. Short activities of different kinds – simple games, learning spellings and number facts, any additional reinforcement work and, of course, reading together, will provide a very important opportunity for children to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult. These activities will allow children to practise key skills in a supportive environment.

As children move on into Years 3,4,5 and 6, whilst homework activities will still be a means of practising key skills, they will also provide an opportunity for children to develop the skills of independent learning. Homework activities should allow children to get into the habit of regularly devoting periods of time to studying on their own. This will be a gradual process and the periods of time need not be long.

3. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Ofsted states that "Teachers (should) use well-judged and often imaginative teaching strategies, including setting appropriate homework that, together with clearly directed and timely support and intervention, match individual needs accurately. Consequently, pupils learn exceptionally well across the curriculum."

4. ORGANISATION

The following is an outline of homework activities which will be provided:

Teachers will ensure that all pupils have a book to read at home every day.

We ask that parents –

- Support their child by sharing and reading books together for approximately 15 minutes each day
- Ensure that the children bring their reading folder to school every day

- Use the reading/homework diary to record comments, especially if it is difficult for parents to come into school to speak with the class teacher.
- Reading may be from a school reading book, library book, magazine or reference book.

In addition, teachers will give the following homework:

Year 1 -3

- Spellings based on phonics work.
- Mental Maths Activities will be provided termly for children to rehearse at home; children will be tested on these.
- Practical task for the term.

Year 4 – 6

- Spellings.
- Mental Maths Activities will be provided termly for children to rehearse at home; children will be tested on these.
- 'Log book' tasks to include a rolling cycle of Literacy, Maths, Science and Topic. These tasks will be open-ended and allow children to demonstrate their learning in class.

As we are aware that there are sometimes prior engagements for families, the tasks will be provided termly and children will be required to hand in their homework every Tuesday. Children's log books will be returned to them on a Thursday marked with a comment from the teacher.

Years 4 – 6 are able to attend homework club which is run weekly, every Thursday from 3pm-4pm, in Upper School.

5. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/carers should:

- Provide a reasonably quiet place in which children can do their homework – alone or together with an adult
- Make it clear to their children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning
- Encourage their children and praise them when they have completed their homework

It is essential that children receive feedback on their homework activities if we are to show that we value what they have done.

6. SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Where children have carried out an activity on their own, it is important for appropriate feedback to be given as soon as possible. This needs to be done in a way that keeps the workload of teachers manageable.

This may be through:

- Class discussion of which the homework assignment is a part
- Tests eg. Spelling, times tables
- Comments in front of log book
- Children reviewing their own work in small groups
- Mentioning efforts in Celebration Assemblies

Where a child has completed their homework in a particularly impressive manner, they will be allowed to show their homework to the Headteacher and receive a special 'Headteacher's award'.

6. INCLUSION

At St Christopher's CE Primary School we aim to provide for all children so that they achieve as highly as they can in their homework tasks according to their individual abilities. We will identify which pupils or groups of pupils are under-achieving and take steps to improve their attainment. Gifted children will be identified and suitable learning challenges provided.

7. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

At St Christopher's Church of England Primary School all children are provided with equal access to the English curriculum. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity or home background. Homework club is available to all children in Years 4-6 to enable them to complete their homework.

Policy updated October 2015

Policy to be reviewed October 2018

Update to Policy Record Sheet

Date	Reference / aspect of policy to update	Suggested amendments to consider at next review.