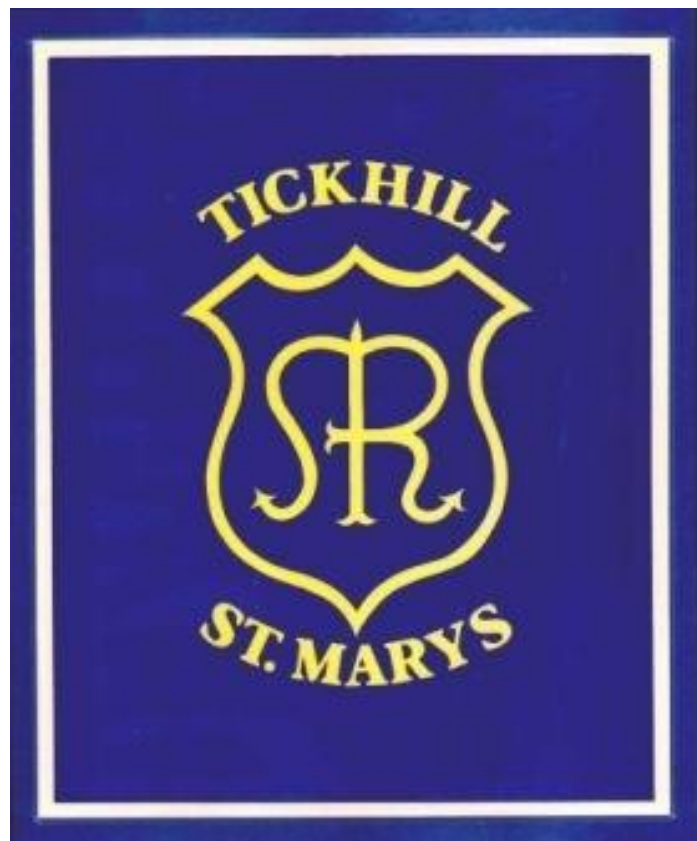


St Mary's C.E. Primary and Nursery School



Homework Policy

Growing together, learning together

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and monitor our policies. The Curriculum and Standards Team has this responsibility, though the day to day management of it is devolved to the Head Teacher.

As with all our policies, this was developed following a period of practice and consultation before being presented for Governors' consideration.

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Mission Statement

'Here at St Mary's Church of England Primary School, through our Christian values, we aspire to nurture and educate the whole child: caring for their well-being, celebrating their individual talents and abilities whilst encouraging them to become lifelong learners. It is our aim that children, parents and school staff should work together towards this end.'

Equal Opportunities

At Tickhill St Mary's School we are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We acknowledge the right of every individual to be treated fairly and with respect regardless of appearance, age, race, gender identity, background, creed, attainment, ability or sexual orientation. We aim to fulfil this ideal through our policies and practice.

Christian Ethos

Tickhill St Mary's School is a Church of England School and, as such, we ensure that the Christian ethos is central to all our policies and practice.

Safeguarding Statement

St Mary's Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Introduction

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework. We believe that children learn best when parents, the school and children work together in partnership.

Intent

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers.

One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one way in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is

important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to
- practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Implementation

Homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

1. The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupils school career.
2. Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older but this may also vary through the school year and be appropriate to the ability of the child.
3. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
4. It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
5. Homework should be set regularly from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

The following information is consistent across the whole school from Year 1 upwards.

At St Mary's Primary School, homework:

- Is usually English and/or Mathematics based
- Is given weekly
- Is expected back in the following week
- Children will be rewarded for completed homework

In Foundation Stage

In the Nursery, children choose a book with a member of staff once a week. Parents are strongly encouraged to read the book with their child and discuss it with them.

In Reception, as confidence grows and the school year progresses letter sounds and basic number work will be sent home to revise and learn.

In Key Stage 1

- Children have an exercise book and homework is given weekly

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- When homework is sheet based, this will be stuck in their homework book when completed
Homework will usually be maths or English based
- Weekly spellings
- Daily reading

In Key Stage 2

- Children have an exercise book and homework is given weekly
- Homework will usually be English and/or Maths based
- Daily reading is encouraged
- Times Tables Rockstars

Creative Homework

- Is set termly throughout KS1 and KS2. Children are encouraged to present their work in any way they wish and parental help is encouraged. A parents 'Creative Homework Show' will be held termly.

We recognise that children have different individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

Marking

Homework is marked or discussed with the children in class in accordance with the marking policy. Rewards such as verbal feedback and positive written comments will be used frequently. Homework completed is acknowledged and praised however there will be no punishment of a pupil who does not complete individual tasks. Class teachers will follow up missed homework by contacting parents/carers if deemed appropriate.

Amount of Homework

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. We expect children in Key Stage 1 to spend approximately one hour a week on home activities, and this may well include reading with a parent. We encourage children in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately one and a half hours on homework type activities per week, and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately two hours a week.

Inclusion and Homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to those pupils' School Support Plans (SSPs). We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

The Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to children and, when necessary, parents and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note with the work, at a parents meeting or at an open evening if possible.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.

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- To mark homework appropriately, when necessary and give feedback to pupils.

The Role of Parents

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process.

- To support the school by encouraging their child to complete the homework tasks that are set.
- To provide the sort of environment that allows their child to do their best.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.

We encourage parents to read to or with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them. If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should contact the child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

The Use of IT

A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet.

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words.