

# **St Michael's RC Primary School and Nursery**



## **Homework Policy**

### **School Mission Statement**



**. I came so that you may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10**

**St Michael's Catholic Primary School is a Catholic family of faith following the teachings of Christ. We strive to create an environment where all members of our school community respect the values of: Church, Independence, Resilience, Caring, Learning and Enjoyment for all. Belief in these values will nurture all as individuals and instil in them the confidence to meet their full potential, providing them with the best grounding for their future place in an ever changing world.**

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers, teaching assistants and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

### **Rationale for Homework**

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 they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

### **Aims / 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 co - operation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to prepare for future planned class work ;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future;

### **Types of Homework**

At St Michael's we set a variety of homework activities.

- In the Foundation Stage Unit (FS 1 and FS 2) emphasis is placed on promoting Early Reading and numeracy. Specific areas of the core curriculum can also be set to support individual children's needs if necessary.
- Reading is a key priority across the entire school to enable all pupils to access the curriculum.

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2...

- Children will be expected to complete reading every night either from a school reader in the reading scheme or if free readers from a book of the child's choice which has been accepted by the class teacher. The pages read and the amount of time spent on the reading task should be noted in the child's homework journal/ contact book and signed by the parent
- Children will be expected to learn spellings and multiplication tables as a regular homework task. These will be set on a Monday and put into each

child's contact book/learning journal. These will be tested every Friday morning after praise assemblies.

- If they so wish children can complete additional homework tasks on a “dip and do “ basis which can be found on each child's class web page on the school website. Unlike the previous homework above these are not obligatory but should be regarded as extension activities and can take on a variety of forms. Once completed children should bring their extra home learning into school to show their teacher and classmates so as to receive recognition for their efforts.
- More creative, open ended homework may be issued ie: to research a topic.
- Homework activities set for a half term or end of term period will be posted on the school website on the relevant class page so that all children and parents/carers are fully aware of the homework content. This will be sign posted to parents via the newsletter.
- All homework should be recorded in the child's homework journal/ contact book. Results of mental maths/tables/spellings tests will be recorded in the journal with any incorrect spellings that the child may have made in their tests recorded so that parents/carers can see the mistakes that their child has made and can support them at home.
- The homework journal/contact book will then be signed by the teacher every Friday and it is an expectation that all parents will also sign the contact book to acknowledge receipt of the information given.

### **Amount of Homework / Time Allocation**

Reasonable timescales should be given for tasks to be completed in order that children develop greater independence and manage their time accordingly.

We encourage pupils and parents to complete homework tasks within reasonable, demarcated time limits.

Homework issued to pupils should reflect the quality of the task and not the quantity.

.In Key stage 1 the expectation is that each child will be given:

Reading

Spellings

Tables when the appropriate age has been met

In key stage 2 the expectation is that each child will be given:

Reading

Spellings

Tables

In regard to Year 6, children will be given additional homework in preparation for SATs and as a means of transition to the extra demands of homework in secondary school

### **The Role of Parents**

Parents have an important role to play in supporting their child with homework tasks. We invite them to support their child / children as and when they feel is necessary and to encourage their child to gradually gain independence when completing tasks.

Any issues with homework should be discussed with the teacher by seeing the parents at the end of the school day in the playground or by making an appointment to have a meeting or by having a simple telephone conversation. If the parent/carer is not able to do this then a note to that effect should be written by the parent/carer in the child's journal to communicate any problems to the teacher.

### **Use of computing**

The use of computing and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available and the speed with which it can be accessed.

However, we expect pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something and expressing it in their own words, not merely downloading material and printing it out.

**Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the internet.**

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy is reviewed carefully as part of our ongoing monitoring programme. This includes regular book scrutiny and consultation with all stakeholders.

This policy was formally adopted in September 2017.

**Next Review Date: September 2018.**

Chair of Governors \_\_\_\_\_

Headteacher \_\_\_\_\_