

Policy: Homework Policy
SACC approval: September 2023
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Holy Trinity Church of England (VA) Primary School



Believe • Achieve • Inspire •

Homework Policy

SCHOOL VISION

At Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School our Christian vision shapes all we do.

*"I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live."
Ecclesiastes 3:12.*

Our vision is to be an inspirational place of learning where:

- we facilitate opportunities so every child can flourish in a place where they feel safe, **happy and confident**.
- staff **well-being** and professional development is valued and supported in order to fulfil their roles, inspire others and experience personal **fulfilment**.
- the school provides facilities that enables an **optimum learning environment**.
- the **school plays a central role within our community** and enjoys strong **links with the church, local companies and other schools**.
- we create a culture of vigilance to safeguard all children

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Ecclesiastes 3:12*

Introduction

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standard (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Aims and Objectives

Regular, well planned homework can:

- Enable pupils to advance their progress, skills and understanding in academic and social development
- Develop good work habits and self-discipline for the future
- Encourage skills and attitudes which help children improve their educational performance
- Provide opportunities for individualised work and develop skills of independent learning
- Offer access to resources not found in school (public libraries, local museums etc.)
- Consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and assist in preparation for future class work
- Provide a context for pupil/parent interaction
- Help parents gain insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school

Homework is seen as 'an essential part of good education that supports children's development as independent learners'. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning and begin to consider their time management. It can also best prepare them for secondary school homework expectations.

What is Homework?

Children should view homework as an extension of their school work and it should not be a chore. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual as homework plays a positive role in reinforcing or consolidating something they are less secure with. We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- reading independently or with a parent or adult
- a family visit to a local museum or park
- completing work or consolidating learning
- undertaking a project
- mathematics skills
- literacy activities
- using tools and materials to create an object

We also acknowledge the important role of a balanced lifestyle and that play, choice and free time are essential ingredients in developing a child's growth.

What the school will offer:

Published on our website on our [Curriculum Page](#), parents receive an overview of the curriculum, termly age related objectives and get the opportunity to meet with the class teacher to discuss progress and areas of study to be undertaken in relation to the National Curriculum. These discussions include information about the types of homework which might be set by school as well as indicating activities parents might wish to develop with their children.

When teachers set homework they will ensure that:

- It is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom or a revisit of previous learning.

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- The task is made clear to children and matched to their ability, especially for those pupils with special educational needs.
- Time scales for completion and submission are fair and made explicit.
- Work is marked as promptly as possible and, where appropriate, involves the children.
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly. Children should approach teachers themselves with queries as a first point. Teachers and parents can then follow this up if need be.
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated so it is valued.
- Pupil engagement of homework is monitored.
- Opportunities for the regular, formal evaluation of homework are provided for teachers, parents and children as part of the on-going consultation arrangements.
- The children know that homework is expected of them and they must complete the set tasks. They will be given an opportunity to succeed in this through access to a homework session in school if they continually fail to complete the work set by the teacher at home.

Types and amount of homework

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school.

STANDARD HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS	
Foundation stage – Reception: (approximately 1 hr each week) • Reading daily to an adult • Phonics and/or spellings • Number activities	Years 1 and 2: (approximately 1-1.5 hrs per week) • Reading daily to an adult • Spellings or literacy • Maths work
Years 3 and 4: (approximately 1.5 hrs per week) <i>Assignments set via Teams</i> • Reading daily to an adult talk about text and practicing comprehension skills • Spellings • Maths work • Literacy work	Years 5 and 6 (approximately 2 hrs per week) <i>Assignments set via Teams</i> • Reading daily to an adult talk about text and practicing comprehension skills • Spellings • Maths work • Literacy work Children in Year 6 may be given more if it is felt it will support their learning as they approach the SATs

Holiday Homework

Children in KS2 will be expected to complete a reduced amount of homework during the school holiday periods. This will link to previous learning and/or next term's learning so they are prepared upon their return. It is expected that all children read regularly to maintain their reading standard and fluency, particularly during holiday periods of 2 weeks or more.

The teachers are not expected to supply additional homework because of unauthorised family holidays during term time, but will happily signpost you to activities and online materials. A holiday diary or project may be undertaken and then shared with the class upon their return.

Online Homework

Homework set will require access to online learning tools available through our website under your child's class page. Every child has a password and can log in to complete their homework in and out of school providing they have online access. The class teacher sets and monitors the online homework and can immediately identify where a child exceeds or where they are having difficulty. Online homework includes access to:

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- Microsoft Teams (KS2)
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- Mathletics
- Spelling Shed
- Purple Mash

Reading Books

All pupils are expected to read at home to an adult at least 4 times a week. Although many children enjoy modern literature it is also important to access classic texts to enhance their range of traditional vocabulary through developing sound knowledge and understanding. This is of vital importance so the children;

- learn standard English to support speaking and listening,
- develop and extend their vocabulary
- understand words and phrases
- develop the ability to infer and deduce through questioning and reasoning
- increase their pace of reading so they can access the SATs paper from start to finish
- demonstrate independence by accessing other materials and subjects using their reading skills

Curriculum Projects

Children might be given projects to fulfil that link to subjects within their curriculum. This may involve engaging in a physical challenge, art, design and technology or a humanities project. It provides an opportunity for children to work with members of their family and show their creative side of learning. Although this is an optional homework piece we do expect some engagement so they can share and celebrate with their class or school. Children are rewarded with House Points for their contributions, input and effort.

Additional Homework

Some children thrive on challenge and enjoy engaging in learning activities both at home and at school. This level of learning is seen as beyond school homework expectations. If you or your child is interested in more homework please access the many learning activities online and those found in reputable shopping outlets. You can also access age appropriate online learning materials through the school class pages on our website which include additional follow up activities. Please refer to:

- Bug Club reading
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- Mathletics
- Spellodrome
- Purple Mash

Your child requires their school online password.

The Role of Parents

It is important that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its significance. It is also necessary for parents to recognise that it is the children's responsibility to complete the work so teachers can monitor how well they work independently. The role of the parent is therefore largely to encourage their child to commence their homework, praise and encourage them through their homework and support them when necessary. To enable homework to be a smooth and enjoyable experience, parents need to discuss with their children the following:

- An appropriate time to do homework
- The best place for homework to be done
- What helps their concentration
- How long the homework should take
- How much help they require

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- The reason why they may be reluctant or refuse to complete home (if appropriate)

It is imperative that the class teacher is informed if a child is unable to access the homework through a lack of resources so we can alleviate any homework pressures. If parents have any concerns or questions regarding the homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher who is happy to resolve any issues or concerns. If the concerns are persistent then please arrange to meet with the Key Stage leader or a senior leader. For any formal complaint about the school Homework Policy or the way it is implemented; parents should follow the Complaints Policy and Procedures.

Pupils with special educational needs

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. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

Marking and Feedback

Marking and feedback is seen as an essential part of homework. It informs the teacher of the child's attitude and approach to homework, the level of effort taken, the child's understanding of the homework set and the strengths and areas for further development.

Teachers will mark the homework they set each week and provide feedback when necessary. Where possible the teacher will go through the homework with the class to self-mark so they can identify their own strengths and areas for improvement or clarify misconceptions.

Online homework will be monitored by the class teacher and House Points will be awarded for all the projects undertaken. Additional homework is between the parent and their child and the parent should take responsibility for marking and feedback to alleviate additional time constraints and workload on the class teacher.

Consequences

If a child persistently refuses or fails to complete homework, then the teacher may contact the parents and ask to speak to them in order for school and home to work in partnership for the benefit of the child.

Children in KS2 who fail to complete homework on at least 3 consecutive occasions will be given a lunch time detention in which to complete their homework.

This policy was adopted by Holy Trinity CE Primary School and agreed by the Standards, Achievements and Curriculum Committee and ratified by the Full Governing Board.

Approved by.....on behalf of the School Governing Board.

Signature:.....

Date:.....

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