



# **GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL**

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

**Reviewed February 2015  
Next Review February 2019**

This policy is a statement of how homework is organised throughout the school from the Foundation stage to Year 6.

It is guided by the DCSF document, "Homework: Guidelines for Primary and Secondary Schools."

### **Introduction:**

This policy gives a broad description of the homework that is to take place in each year group. Parents are informed, through a termly curriculum letter, the learning that is to take place in the core subjects; the letter also contains a statement of the homework expected in each class.

The Government guidelines suggest that a sensible programme of homework activities for children in KS1 should be designed to take about an hour per week. At KS2 these activities should gradually increase so children in years 3 and 4 should do about an hour and a half per week and children in years 5 and 6 around two and half hours a week. (This time may not include reading done at home).

These times are general recommendations; there may be times when children will do less or more but teachers will usually aim to set homework consistent with these times.

We appreciate that many children engage in after school clubs and activities and therefore any homework given (other than reading) will not be expected in for the following day; children will have several days in which to complete it.

The marking of homework is completed outside the formal school day as primary teachers do not currently have marking periods on the timetable; this means there may be times when homework is not marked in detail but all homework will be acknowledged and appreciated by the person who has set it.

### **The Purpose of Homework:**

Homework is given to:

- encourage a positive partnership between home and school that centres on the child's learning
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding particularly in literacy and numeracy
- extend school learning through additional reading and project work
- encourage independent learning
- encourage confidence and self-discipline to study alone in preparation for the requirements of secondary school

### **The Homework Given:**

#### **Year R , Year 1 and Year 2:**

All pupils will have a "Home/School Reading Record" which they will be given once the teacher feels they are ready to use it. It will be used to provide a communication between home and school, particularly with regard to the Reading Books which are brought home on a regular basis for parents to share.

Pupils are asked to read/share books with their parents daily and parents are asked to record information such as the date, amount read and any difficulties encountered. Parents are also asked to sign/initial the Home/School Reading Record whenever a parent has read with a child.

#### **Year 1 and Year 2**

Pupils are given weekly spellings to learn to help support reading and writing skills.

They will also be given a short number activity to complete and activities to develop writing skills (linked to topic work where appropriate)

There is an increased amount of homework for all classes in the juniors. Pupils throughout the school are expected to read daily and read with an adult at least three times per week. Adults are expected to record observations in their child's reading journal.

### **Years 3 and 4:**

Children are expected to read every day for a recommended time of 15 minutes. They will also receive an additional piece of writing/comprehension homework (Current affairs or topic related) together with spellings. The latter will focus on developing greater accuracy of spelling some key and unfamiliar words.

At times pupils may be asked to conduct some simple research or complete a project at home related to a focused topic. Pupils are encouraged to investigate topics and will have opportunities to present it in their chosen way. Weekly Maths homework will also be given.

### **Years 5 and 6:**

Pupils are encouraged to be more independent in these year groups.

Children are expected to read every day for a recommended time of 20-30 minutes. Spellings are given to help reinforce understanding of spelling patterns. Literacy homework is set weekly and may alternate between a reading comprehension or writing task. Topic work is lined to literacy work and the curriculum for foundations subjects is enquiry based. This allows pupils the opportunity to devise questions about focused topics, they would like to research further. At times pupils may be asked to carry out research or complete a project at home.

In addition children may be asked to complete unfinished classroom work at home. This would not occur where children have been given insufficient time to complete it in class or where a child has not finished due to a lack of understanding of the work.

### **The Role of Parents and Carers:**

Parents/Carers can support their child's homework by:

- providing a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their work, alone or with an adult
- making it clear to their child that they value the homework set and support the school
- encouraging and praising children when they have completed their homework
- helping to ensure that homework is returned to school as requested. It is expected that children do complete all their homework. Homework is monitored by the class teacher and children who consistently fail to produce homework may be asked to do it during break times
- signing and commenting as appropriate in their homework diaries

It is not intended that homework be a negative experience for children or that they should spend too much time on any one day completing homework.

Where a pupil has difficulty with their homework or finds it takes longer than would be expected, parents are asked to contact the teacher who set the work in order to discuss the problems.

Where a child cannot complete homework in the time set, for genuine reasons, parents are asked to write a note in the pupil's homework book to inform the teacher of that reason.

Parents co-operation and support with homework helps to make it a successful and happy experience for children and the staff at Good Shepherd very much appreciate this support.