



English Martyrs Catholic Primary School  
*"where everyone is special"*



# P25: Home Learning Policy

## Mission Statement 2012

With Christ at the heart of our Catholic community,  
our mission is to:

- ✘ nurture the potential in each individual,
- ✘ celebrate achievement,
- ✘ and develop an awareness of service  
to God and each other

*Adopted by the school: July 2014*

*Review: As needed*

## What is home learning?

Home-learning refers to any task which pupils are asked to do, by their teachers, outside lesson time. The purpose of home-learning is to:

- Inspire and motivate children to be life-long learners.
- Engage parents and carers in their child's learning and to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding including improving attitudes to learning.
- Exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home and elsewhere.
- Extend school learning eg through additional reading and practice of key skills.
- Encourage pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study with increasing independence, and prepare them for the study skills needed in the next phase of their education.
- Share with parents on a week by week basis, what children have been learning in school.
- Consolidate basic skills and knowledge (eg reading, spelling/phonics, number bonds and multiplication tables).

## How much time should be spent on home-learning?

Home-learning is set each week and the amount increases as the child gets older. The policy has been designed to allow flexibility. It takes into account family situations and other musical, sporting, artistic and club activities in which children are involved.

As a guide, home-learning (including reading) should take the following amounts of time (government recommendations):

- Year R 5-10 minutes a night, when possible
- Year 1 1 hour spread over the week
- Year 2 1 hour spread over the week
- Year 3 1.5 hours spread over the week
- Year 4 1.5 hours spread over the week
- Year 5 2.5 hours spread over the week
- Year 6 2.5 hours spread over the week

However of much more importance is the quality of home-learning. We believe that parents and carers play a vital role in encouraging their child to give of their best when undertaking home-learning tasks.

Parents and carers are notified at the beginning of the school year how the home-learning will be organised. The arrangements will be explained to the parents in the Parent Curriculum meetings at the start of the academic year. From Year 1 through to Year 6 all the children have a homework book. For each piece of homework given there are clear explanations of what the children have to do for the homework. There is also a section for parents to add their own comments, it may be what they wish the teacher to be aware of or how they have supported their child's learning during the week.

## A note about reading

As a school we believe that reading is the key to all successful learning. We encourage parents to spend time reading to and with their children in addition to the time spent on home-learning.

## What to expect?

- Pupils are expected to complete their home-learning.
- Throughout the school the majority of home-learning will be set weekly in line with learning in school that week.
- Pupils will be given a Homework Book to record their learning.
- For each home-learning task there will be an explanation of what the homework is, an indication of when the homework has to be returned to school. There is also a box for parental comments.
- Homework is not marked to the same level as class work as this would be an unrealistic expectation. However all home-learning is marked or commented on, either in a written format or verbally. Any concerns are followed up by the teacher with the child.
- Parents will be informed if a child regularly is not completing their home-learning.
- If appropriate children may have to catch up on homework during their own free time in school for persistent failure to do the home-learning that is set.
- Home-learning will be planned as part of the overall planning for the class (short and medium term).
- Extra home-learning may be given at the discretion of the teacher.
- Home-learning must not be dependent on the use of a home computer and will not be set as an ICT project.
- Completed home-learning must be praised and acknowledged. This feedback will be written or verbal. In addition, effort with home-learning will be rewarded through our school rewards system.
- Individual children, particularly in key stage 2, may have specific homework individually for them eg handwriting (if they still are not joining up letters correctly).

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
<i>Weekly</i> Home reading book	<i>Weekly</i> Home reading book	<i>Weekly</i> Home reading book	<i>Weekly</i> Home reading book	<i>Weekly</i> <i>(identified individual children)</i>	<i>Week</i> <i>(identified individual children)</i>	<i>Weekly</i> <i>(identified individual children)</i>
<i>Weekly</i> Sound of the week	<i>Weekly</i> Learning Number Bonds	<i>Weekly</i> Learning Number Bonds	<i>Weekly</i> Literacy focus	Home reading book	Home reading book	Home reading book
<i>Weekly</i> Learning Key words/High Frequency words	<i>Weekly</i> Handwriting	<i>Weekly</i> Handwriting	<i>Weekly</i> Spellings	<i>Weekly</i> Literacy focus	<i>Weekly</i> Literacy focus	<i>Weekly</i> Literacy focus
<i>When appropriate</i> Number games	<i>When appropriate</i> Phonic work/spellings	<i>When appropriate</i> Phonic work/spellings	<i>When appropriate</i> Number focus	<i>Weekly</i> Spellings	<i>Weekly</i> Spellings	<i>Weekly</i> Spellings
<i>As needed</i> Work relating to the theme in class	<i>As needed</i> Work relating to the theme in class	<i>As needed</i> Work relating to the theme in class	<i>When appropriate</i> Sacramental preparation (First Holy Communion and Sacrament of Reconciliation)	<i>When appropriate</i> Number focus	<i>Weekly</i> Number focus	<i>When appropriate</i> Number focus
			<i>When appropriate</i> Number games and tables	<i>When appropriate</i> Number games and tables.	<i>When appropriate</i> Number games and tables	<i>When appropriate</i> Number games and tables
			<i>When appropriate</i> Handwriting	<i>When appropriate</i> Handwriting		<i>When appropriate</i> Handwriting
						<i>When appropriate</i> Sacramental preparation (Confirmation)
						<i>When appropriate</i> SATS preparation

## Parents and carers as partners

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- Parents and carers are partners with school in the child's learning experiences. Parents and carers are encouraged to let the child's teacher know if home-learning has not been completed for any reason, or if home-learning is too difficult or too easy. The best way to do this is to write comments in the parental feedback box in the homework book. However if there are regular concerns then speaking to the teacher would be the next step.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to take an interest in their child's home-learning and learning in general, to discuss it with them and to give them help when necessary, but not to do it for them.
- Parents and carers are invited to workshops when appropriate eg phonic workshops.
- Parents and carers are invited to the curriculum meetings at the start of a new academic year. At these meetings parents have the opportunity to meet the new teacher and find out what the expectations of the year group are. In addition home-learning will be discussed. Parents have the opportunity to ask the teacher any questions that they have.
- All children must have a home-school learning folder which they transport reading books and home-learning work to and from school and home.
- Home-learning should be enjoyable however children should be encouraged to reflect on the benefits of sustained learning. Parents and carers should praise children for good effort. Parents and carers are encouraged to let the teacher know if their child has tried particularly hard on a piece of home-learning.
- The school will **not** provide home-learning for children who are taken out of school to go on holidays during term time or other unauthorised absences.
- Home-learning will not be set as a 'catch up' for periods of absence due to ill health. However, under certain circumstances this may be negotiated with the class teacher.
- Home-learning can also be supported by older siblings or grandparents.

## Monitoring the effectiveness of the policy

Home-learning will be monitored by senior staff and school council to feed into the next update. Parental and carer and pupil feedback will be sought at regular intervals. The Governing Body via the performance and standards committee will review the policy and practice of home learning each year.

## Safeguarding

All safeguarding procedures will be carried out in line with agreed school safeguarding policy and E-Safety. Any concerns will be reported to the Headteacher, or Deputy when Headteacher is unavailable, immediately and then followed up in writing as soon as possible.

Websites may be used for home-learning, however if they are, then guidelines from the school E-Safety Policy will be referred to and followed. Pupils will be made aware of Internet Safety rules and guidance.

## Equal Opportunities

All pupils in the school, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender or special needs, are ensured an entitlement to a broad, rich and balanced curriculum.

## Inclusion

We aim to meet the needs of individual pupils in school, whether the pupils are designated as having special educational needs or are academically more able. All pupils are entitled to access home learning at a level appropriate to their individual needs. Academically more able pupils need to be challenged with open ended tasks which provide opportunities to tackle more complex home learning.