



# St Hilary's School

## Homework Policy Including EYFS

Homework is encouraged from an early age and is seen as an essential part of the School's Curriculum and a reflection of the link between home and school. Our school is dedicated to preparing our children for their adult life beyond formal education and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British Values to all our children. We actively promote democracy, the rule of the law, individual liberty and mutual respect of those with different faiths and beliefs. These are fundamental British Values which underpin all that we offer, as does our School Motto 'Not for oneself but for all.'

The aim of homework is to establish a link between home and school and to encourage children to understand the importance of good homework practice. The homework routine will vary according to different age groups, ability levels and family circumstances. We always encourage parents to use their discretion where homework is concerned. There may be occasions where it is difficult for a child to complete their homework – after school events or matches or family reasons. Parents should use the homework diary or email/write to communicate this to the relevant subject or class teacher.

If a child has worked well on the required task but has not completed the homework, parents should ask them to stop and write to the teacher to explain that this is the case and flag up any difficulties the child may have had. Children are not expected to work beyond the set time to complete homework if they have found a task difficult. Teachers are reliant on parents' feedback to assess the suitability and success of the homework set and we encourage parents to communicate any concerns they may have using the appropriate channels.

As children move up through the school, parents should strive to find the right balance between supporting homework and encouraging the children to be independent. This will be different for different children and should be discussed, where necessary with the class or Form tutor.

### **Reading**

Pupils in their final year of Kindergarten are issued with phonics folders. Phonics is regularly assessed with younger children in Kindergarten to ascertain when they are able to recognise a few sounds and then they are also issued with phonics folders. As the pupils complete each set of phonics and are able to blend simple CVC words, they then begin the ORT picture books, followed by those with first words. All children in their final year of Kindergarten begin the ORT picture books in the Summer Term.

Reception children are issued with reading books four nights each week and take home a book from the library for their parents to read to them once each week. Pre-Prep and Year 3 pupils take home books from the school reading scheme, those in Year 3 who have completed

the reading scheme borrow books from their class or school library. Pupils in Year 4 and upwards choose books from the school library. Pupils are expected to read every night and for this to be recorded by a parent or carer. In Reception to Year 3, this is done through the child's reading record and in Years 4-6 through the reading section of the child's homework planner. As children become more independent and fluent, this may take the form of personal reading rather than reading aloud to an adult but the book title and page number should still be recorded.

## Spellings

In Years 1-3, pupils are given a spelling folder with their words for the week and a space every night to write each word once using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method. This is to encourage them to learn their words regularly which will enable them to retain this knowledge after the test. In Years 4-6, pupils use the strategy that best suits them for learning their weekly spellings. Throughout the school, spellings are differentiated according to ability, by quantity and/or level of difficulty.

## Homework

- **Reception:** the children are encouraged to do some Literacy work every day. This may take the form of looking at and discussing picture books, learning phonic sounds and high frequency words or reading a reading book. Spelling homework is set in the Summer Term. No longer than ten minutes should be spent on daily homework tasks.
- **Year 1:** the children are given daily reading and spelling practice. On a Friday one piece of written/online homework will be given each week. Pupils should spend no longer than 15-20 minutes on daily homework tasks.
- **Year 2:** the children continue with their daily reading and spelling words and should be learning their times tables. In addition, they are given one Maths and one English task per week. The homework should not take longer than 20-25 minutes in total each night.
- **Year 3 and 4:** Pupils continue with the ongoing daily learning of spellings, times tables and reading. They will also receive French vocabulary to learn. The children receive four pieces of homework per week including one English, one Maths, one Science and one additional subject. Homework should not take more than 30 minutes each night.
- **Year 5:** the children should complete 30-40 minutes of homework per night over five nights including one English, one Maths, one Science, one Verbal Reasoning and one additional subject. In addition, pupils should complete daily reading, spelling practice, times table practice and French vocabulary.
- **Year 6:** In the Autumn Term, pupils are set a 45-60-minute homework per night. Over the week, they will receive two pieces of English homework, two pieces of Maths homework and one Science homework. After Christmas, pupils are expected to spend 30 minutes on homework tasks including one English, one Maths, one Science and one additional subject. This may include some project-based activities. Daily reading and spellings continue.
- **Instrumental Music** the children should practise instruments at home every evening for the time suggested by their instrumental teacher.
- **Speech and Drama** homework is written in the back of the Speech and Drama book and should be completed on a weekly basis.

- **The use of Showbie:** occasionally teachers may use Showbie to set homework tasks. The use of Showbie will be used in conjunction with the school's safeguarding and computer policy. The access to devices abilities of pupils must also be taken into account.

### **Homework Diary and Parental Communication**

The homework policy is implemented through the use of the homework diary from Year 2 onwards. The following guidelines will help children to use these efficiently:

- The diary should be in School every School day
- Each week of the School term is represented by a double page in the diary
- Every homework should be recorded in the diary on the appropriate day
- A paper clip or elastic band may help children keep the place

In Prep, we ask parents to check the diary at weekends and acknowledge that they have done so by signing the end of the page. During the following week the Form Teacher will also sign the diary in Form Time, but only after a parent's signature is there. If a diary is not signed, appropriate action is taken by Form tutors to encourage the children to bring their signed diary the following day. We hope that in this way we establish a regular procedure directed at helping all children and are grateful for parental assistance.

### **Holiday/Absence Homework**

Pupils are not generally set formal homework during the holidays although they may be asked to bring in research or items for a topic in the following half term. In the Easter and Summer holidays of Year 5 and the Autumn half term and Christmas holidays of Year 6, pupils are set optional homework to prepare them for the 11+ exams. Optional practical projects for topic areas may also be set on occasion.

As a school, we do not advocate pupils requesting absence during term time and as a result do not provide work for pupils unless circumstances are exceptional. We will provide work as appropriate if pupils have extended period of absence due to illness. This will generally be co-ordinated by the child's class or form tutor with contributions from the relevant subject teachers.

**Reviewed: June 2022, June 2023**

**Next review date: June 2024**

**Person responsible: Mrs Luci Brown (Middle Leader responsible for Assessment and Reporting)**