

English Martyrs Catholic Voluntary Academy

Homework Policy



Approved by:
Head teacher -
and Chair of
Governors

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Last reviewed
on: Feb 2019

Next review due
by: Feb 2020

1. Mission Statements

“We learn and grow as a family in the footsteps of Jesus. “

2. Rationale

English Martyrs CVA is committed to setting regular homework appropriate to the age, needs and experiences of the child. We believe that homework helps to consolidate the skills that are being taught at school and provides children with more opportunities for embedding learning. It also gives children an opportunity to explore learning in an unstructured setting encouraging them to follow their own lines of enquiry and develop the self discipline needed when eventually they transfer to secondary school. In addition homework creates a partnership between school and family, giving parents an insight into what their child is learning.

3. Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.

- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To prepare Year 6 pupils for the transfer to secondary school.

4. Homework Procedures

At the beginning of the new academic year parents will be given the opportunity to meet their child's new class teacher. Homework expectations relevant to the year group will be discussed at this meeting, this information will be shared on the class pages on the school website as well as being placed at the front of pupils homework books.

Often your child will be able to complete the given tasks independently but at times they will need parental support depending on the individual pupil and their needs.

When hearing a younger child read we do ask that parents evidence this in reading diaries and that children read at least three times a week.

Once a child is a free reader parents should still oversee their child's reading and question them on what they have read. Support for parents in this area will be given by the class teacher if needed.

There will be no set formal homework in the holidays apart from opportunities for exploring new topics in connection with sparkling starts. We do want to encourage creativity in all our pupils as well as develop learning characteristics and reflect our broad curriculum, therefore we will be setting an open ended question for children to explore at the beginning of a new topic. This will involve the children in finding out information and presenting this in any way they want to reflecting their individual level of ability. As part of the transition process from year 5 to year 6 there will be a formal learning booklet to complete during the Summer holidays.

5. RE Homework

As we are a faith school and 10 % of our teaching time is devoted to RE we also feel that it is important for parents as partners to have an understanding of the topics we are teaching in RE so there will also be sent home a question for you to discuss as a family at the beginning of a new RE topic. This will not need to be recorded.

6. Rewards

Each class teacher will monitor completed homework, this helps to monitor learning attitudes and achievement and helps inform discussion with parents. Children who complete homework will receive a house point and bonus house points will be given where appropriate. Pupils who do not complete their homework or have not produced work appropriate to their ability will be reminded by their class teacher and parents may be spoken to. Please let us know if homework is coming in late etc as we do understand that sometimes circumstances get in the way. Please note that late homework may not be marked.

To ensure that children do not feel penalised in any way for the amount of support given by parents we will no longer award head teacher's awards for homework tasks.

7. Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

- To check compliance of the Policy.
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate.
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.

8. Role of Parents/Carers

- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities. The amount of support needed will depend on the needs of the individual child.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.
- Keeping staff informed of any change in the child's circumstances that may affect learning.

9. General

- Wherever possible staff should try to mark any homework that is returned by pupils. This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also send out the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed their homework, and giving them feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. However, marking may be done in a variety of forms, some of which will not be written. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.
- If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked and what sort of help needs to be given. **In such circumstances the teacher should consult the Head Teacher first.**
- It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.
- Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

10. Year Group Expectations

EYFS - reading 3 times during the week, key words to learn at home to support phonics teaching and letter formation practice when appropriate. Parents are encouraged to get involved in the class topics and online learning journeys of the children.

Year 1 - reading 3 times a week, weekly spellings and one piece of homework weekly focused on learning that week and an open ended question for topic exploration termly.

Year 2 – reading 3 times a week, weekly spellings, 1 piece of weekly homework focused on learning that week, an open ended question for topic exploration termly and appropriate times tables practice.

Year 3 - reading 3 times a week, weekly spellings, times tables practice, 1 piece of homework weekly focused on learning that week and an open ended question for topic exploration termly.

Year 4 – reading 3 times a week, weekly spellings, times tables practice, open ended question for topic exploration termly and 1 piece of weekly homework focused on learning that week.

Year 5 – reading 3 times a week, weekly spellings, times tables practice, an open ended question for topic exploration termly and 1 piece of weekly homework focused on learning that week.

Year 6 – reading 3 times a week, weekly spellings, times tables practice, an open ended question for topic exploration termly and 1 piece of weekly homework focused on learning that week.

Spellings may need to be practiced daily with some children but we do recommend that spellings are practiced at least three times during the week.