

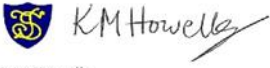
# St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy



With God's Guidance We Love, Learn, Respect and Forgive

## Part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Academy Trust

### Homework Policy

<b>Written</b>	<b>18/02/21</b>
<b>Signed (Chair of Governors)</b>	 Kate Howells Chair of Governors St Josephs Catholic Voluntary Academy
<b>Review (February 2022)</b>	
<b>Signed (Chair of Governors)</b>	

**Rationale:**

To support our pupils to attain the highest standards (Spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and academically) 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 :**

Regular, well planned homework can :

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

**What is homework?**

Homework should not be seen as a chore but as a way of increasing children's learning and improving their skills. We acknowledge the importance and necessity of free time and play in children's development and growth and sometimes activities may be set as homework which emphasise this essential aspect of their development.

We see homework therefore as encompassing a wide range of possible activities including:

- Reading with a parent
- A family visit to a museum or local place of interest
- Finishing off work from class
- Learning and practising number facts, such as times tables or number bonds.
- Taking part in a sports activity
- Going swimming or playing a team sport
- Going dancing or learning a musical instrument
- Completing a project with family support

It can be seen from this list that the school sees homework as a two-way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be completed at home but are delighted to learn of children's successes in other aspects of their development and will seek to recognise these achievements in school.

### **When Teachers set homework they will ensure that:**

- It is always clearly linked to current areas of study within the class.
- The task is clearly explained to children and matched to their abilities.
- All pupils will be expected to complete any tasks set. They will be given an opportunity to succeed in this through using homework catchup sessions during school leisure time or during less structured times if they regularly struggle to complete them at home.

### **Amount of homework.**

We increase the amount of homework set as children move through the school.

### **Foundation Stage:**

- Reading / sharing a book daily at home with an adult.
- Practising phonics daily.

### **Key Stage One (Years 1 & 2):**

Expected: Reading daily with an adult.

Daily phonics practice

May be set additionally: Weekly times tables /number bond practice  
Topic-based project half termly

### **Key stage two**

#### **Years 3 & 4**

Expected: Daily reading to an adult.

Daily times tables practice

May be set additionally: Playing a board game with family members once per week  
Participating in an outdoor activity once per week (weather permitting)  
Topic- based project half termly when appropriate.

#### **Years 5 & 6**

Expected: Reading daily with an adult ( a range of books, not just those sent home from school)  
Daily times tables practice (quick recall).

Weekly conversation about a current news item with an adult.

May be set additionally: Participating in an outdoor activity once per week (weather permitting)  
Topic- based project half termly when appropriate  
Play a card or board game with family members weekly.

Children in year 6 may be given extra tasks if it is felt they will support their learning as they approach their SATs.

It is essential that your child should not worry about their homework tasks and that they enjoy spending time at home sharing their tasks/ leisure activities as much as possible.

If your child feels supported and that you enjoy supporting them they will gain confidence and be encouraged to have a go and to take risks in their learning.

If parents have any problems or questions about the homework that has been set they should contact the class teacher for further information or clarification.

There may be some weeks where the class teacher does not set any additional homework tasks, other than the required reading and phonics/times tables practice that is expected of all pupils in KS 1 & 2. This is because the teacher requires a stronger focus on these elements of their learning to ensure good progress.

**COVID- 19**

There will be no expectation of additional Home learning during this time (National Lockdown/ Bubble Burst- Short Periods of isolation)