



Homework Policy

Our Lady's PS

Devised: November 2018
Reviewed: September 2022

The Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to make explicit what is expected of both teachers, pupils and parents regarding weekly homework activities. All members of staff are expected to be familiar with the policy and to apply it consistently.

The need for a homework policy

Homework is an essential element of children's primary school education. It enables them to further develop their learning at home by extending what they have learned at school.

Furthermore, it enables pupils to reinforce the learning that has taken place at school to ensure that they are secure in their learning of key concepts.

Completing homework enables pupils to make good progress in their learning. It also helps to prepare children to become independent learners and manage their own time effectively in preparation for secondary school and life beyond.

When is homework set?

All year groups will be set daily homework. We do not give weekend homework (except for those who are receiving extra help for Transfer tests.)

What will homework consist of?

In **Primary One** children will be set weekly homework as follows;

- Daily reading, to be recorded on the reading record sheet.
- Learning book – Reinforcement of letter/sound and sight words taught in school.
- One piece of maths per week.
- One piece of literacy per week.
- One piece of Religion per week

In **Primary 2** children will be set homework as follows;

- Daily reading
- Learning book – Reinforcement of letter/sound and sight words taught in school
- One piece of Maths per week
- One piece of Literacy per week
- One piece of Religion per week
- Spellings; After Halloween pupils will be given new spellings to learn every week. These will be tested at the end of the school week.

At times, children will be given a learning homework i.e. key words, phonic sounds, prayers, songs and narration for assemblies and Christmas Plays.

In **Primary 3** children will be set homework as follows;

- Daily reading
- Daily spellings to learn
- 4 Literacy homeworks per week. This will be a combination of worksheets from The Complete Spelling Programme and a comprehension task
- Mathletics online work. These tasks will be set for the week.

From time to time (e.g. Sacramental preparation/Christmas Nativity), this homework may vary.

In **Primary 4** children will be set homework as follows;

- Daily reading
- Daily spellings
- Maths- Two Mental Arithmetic homeworks each week.
- Literacy- One night of New Wave and one night of comprehension each week.
- 10-15 minutes of Mathletics every night.

In **Primary five**, children will be set weekly homework as follows;

- Daily reading, to be recorded in the reading diary
- Multiplication facts to learn. These will be tested on Friday
- Spellings; pupils will be given new spellings to learn every Monday. These will be tested on Friday
- 4 Literacy tasks per week-3 New Wave and one comprehension
- Mental Arithmetic and Mathletics

In **Primary 6**, children will be set homework as follows;

- Daily reading, to be recorded and signed in the reading record book.
- Spellings; pupils will be given new spellings to learn every Monday, a section of which they are to focus on each night. These will be tested the following Friday.
- One maths task per night. This may be computer based maths work such as Mathletics, or written work to complete e.g. Mental Arithmetic
- One Literacy task per night. Literacy may take the form of grammar, spelling or punctuation work. e.g. New Waves, Key Comprehension or spelling Activity Book.

Homework may also include project based work, research, learning lines for assembly or plays and discussions on Religious topics.

Girls who have 'opted into' Transfer tests will also have corrections to complete and a test at the weekends in the second and third terms.

In **Primary 7**, children will be set homework as follows;

- Daily reading; to be recorded and signed in the reading record
- Spellings; pupils will be given new spellings to learn every night. These will be tested daily and a written test on Friday
- Numeracy; one piece of maths per night. This may be computer based such as Mathletics, or written work to complete
- Literacy; one piece of literacy per night. Literacy may take the form of comprehension, grammar, spelling or punctuation work.

Monday - Wednesday; reading, learn spellings and mental maths facts, one section of New Wave and one part of MA

Thursday; reading, learn spellings and mental maths facts, comprehension and mathletics

Homework may also include project based work, research, learning lines for assembly or plays and discussions on Religious topics.

Girls who have opted in to Transfer tests will also have corrections to complete and a test at the weekends.

In addition

All pupils have access to Mathletics, an online maths programme, and are encouraged to use it regularly. All pupils are encouraged to read extensively at home and pupils from P3-P7 then complete Accelerated Reader quizzes in school. They can also access our Wordshark Literacy Programme.

The nature of the homework assigned will inevitably change during such times as Christmas, Communion or Confirmation time, Parent-Teacher meetings; occasionally pupils may be given a night off (or a Homework Pass) as a reward for a special effort made by the class or by an individual.

Marking

Homework should be marked in line with the marking policy, by the teacher. Children should be given adequate feedback regarding how well they have done and where appropriate, what they need to do to improve. Consistent and excellent homework should be rewarded through the use of stars etc. and teacher/ principal rewards.

Parents and Homework

Parents are encouraged to guide children with their homework should they need it, however they should encourage the child to work independently to complete the tasks set. If parents have any issues with homework they should raise their concerns with the class teacher initially.

If children persistently fail to hand in their homework, parents will be informed and they will be given the opportunity to complete it again at home or in free time in school, if applicable. Key stage two pupils who fail significantly behind with their homework will be given the opportunity to complete it when the rest of the class are doing extracurricular activities, e.g. visits to other schools.

If your daughter is not completing homework you will be notified by letter.

Setting homework

Teachers have a responsibility to ensure that pupils are set homework which is at an appropriately differentiated level. They should ensure that homework set is in line with work which has been completed at school and so is not an entirely new concept to the child.

Timings (approximate time taken per night)

P1 15-20 minutes Learning homework will begin on the first full school day.

P2 30 minutes Begins 3rd week of new school year.

P3 30 minutes Begins 2nd week of new school year.

P4 40 minutes Begins 2nd full week of new school year.

P5 45 minutes Begins 2nd full week of new school year.

P6 1 hour Begins 1st full week in new school year.

P7 1 hour Begins 1st week back in new school year.

**N.B Those sitting transfer
exams will spend in excess
of these times in
preparation for exams at
certain times of the
academic year.**

Signed on behalf of the Board of Governors: _____

Date: _____

