



St Gabriel's CE Primary School

Homework Policy

Our statement of mission:

Our aim is to nurture children with the confidence and self-belief to achieve their best; to be resilient in their learning and ambitious in their hopes and dreams; to live in harmony, respecting others; to have the courage to think for themselves; to search and question throughout life's journey and, if their paths should lead them, to find a personal faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ.

Seeking to nurture:

sel**F**-belief cour**A**ge res**I**lience ambi**T**ion **H**armony

“Stand firm... be courageous” 1 Corinthians 16:13

Policy Reviewed Summer 2022

Next Review: Summer 2025

Introduction

Homework serves to consolidate and reinforces skills and understanding in Mathematics, English and other curriculum areas and helps contribute to raising the level of achievement of individual pupils.

It also provides opportunities for parents and children to work together and for both parents and school to help children foster independent study skills, self-discipline and the ability to be organised – all essential requirements when children transition to high school.

We structure most of our homework tasks to focus on specific key skills which will enable our children to access many other areas of the English and Maths curriculum:

- **Reading** – reading fluently, with comprehension and for pleasure are vital skills to develop. This is why we encourage our children to read daily from a range of school books: our Read Write Inc (Infants) or Oxford (Y2-Y6) reading schemes, class Recommended Reads and books chosen from the library. This breadth is essential for both practice and for widening children's general knowledge and experience of different genres eg fiction, non-fiction, classic, poetry, humorous etc.
- **Spellings** – by learning how to spell key words and words with specific spelling patterns, we are enabling our children to become more fluent writers.
- **Times tables** – these form the basis of many areas of maths. Knowing times tables will enable our children to become more efficient mathematicians in class.

Other homework tasks are provided to develop these skills further:

- **Reading Comprehension** – to develop reading for understanding skills.
- **Mathematics** – applying number knowledge to problem solving

We recognise that all children need leisure time and hope that our policy reflects a balance so children can extend and consolidate their learning with parental support while still allowing 'down time' and a range of other essential family activities.

Aims and objectives

We believe that homework benefits pupils by:

- reinforcing concepts and skills taught in school
- enabling pupils to revisit aspects of the curriculum
- encouraging children to read to their parents/carers, providing an opportunity for parents/carers to become involved in their child's learning
- helping to demonstrate to children that learning can take place in many environments
- promoting learning at home as an essential part of good education
- helping children to develop skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning
- supporting the development of independent learning skills, including the habits of enquiry and investigation

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are asked to:

- praise the value of homework to their children

- provide a suitable space in their home where their children can concentrate on their homework
- establish a homework routine
- provide materials pens, pencils etc
- go through the homework before their child starts and discuss the completed work when finished (as age appropriate)
- make the experience pleasurable
- find time to work with their child or be at hand if a problem arises
- discuss, encourage and praise their child's efforts
- contact the school if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or if their child is experiencing difficulties in doing it

Role of Children

Children are asked to:

- complete their homework by the set deadline
- listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them
- understand the permissible 'Chance Card' approach to forgotten homework
- complete their homework using appropriate writing materials
- have a go at all their homework activities
- ensure they speak to their teacher if they are unsure of tasks given or have struggled to complete them

Feedback

Children receive feedback on their homework in a variety of forms such as:

- verbal
- written
- class discussion

Forgotten or Incomplete Homework

Infant children will usually require parents to work alongside them to complete their homework. We encourage parents to be actively involved in these early years and to work in partnership with us to embed children's learning. There are no consequences for infant children who cannot complete work.

In the juniors, we are hoping to foster increased independence. Nevertheless, it is our experience that children will, on occasion, forget to bring back their homework. To help motivate children to meet deadlines and teach them the need to be organised and responsible we have developed a permissible 'Chance Card' approach. This gives children a set number of occasions when there will be no consequence for forgetting homework. It is intended to be an open and fair approach, that children understand and also see as a challenge, the ultimate goal being never to use a Chance Card! The number of Chance Cards changes across the Junior classes:

- Year 3: x3 Chance Cards within each full term (autumn, spring, summer)
- Year 4: x3 Chance Cards within each full term (autumn, spring, summer)
- Year 5: x2 Chance Cards within each full term (autumn, spring, summer)
- Year 6: x1 Chance Card within each full term (autumn, spring, summer)

If children use up all their Chance Cards in a term, class teachers will inform parents and discuss this with them. For the remainder of that term, both children and parents will then know that the following consequences may be applied if homework is not completed:

- lose part or all of a play time
- be asked to complete homework during a playtime
- be asked to complete homework for the following day/agreed date.

These consequences are intended to encourage and nurture children's personal responsibility in readiness for moving on to high school. We hope that parents support children in achieving this.

We recognise that there may also be exceptional circumstances impacting on a child's ability to complete work at home, or by a given date. We encourage parents to liaise with teachers to discuss issues which may impact on opportunities for home learning. School's partnership with parents is essential if homework is to be viewed in the positive light in which it is intended.

Inclusion

Teachers aim to make opportunities for home learning accessible to all pupils. Children with special educational needs will receive work appropriate to their learning requirements. This may be different to those of the rest of the class in terms of content, recording and frequency.