



HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework

1. **Rationale**

- 1.1. At Our Lady's we recognise the potential for homework to positively reinforce what children learn at school. Guidelines published by the Department for Education and Skills in 1998 define homework as "any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers".

2. **Purposes**

- 2.1. At Our Lady's we value the role of parents and seek to involve them in the tasks being undertaken by their children at home. The tasks may vary but we believe that homework should:
- Develop an effective partnership between our school and families in pursuing the aims of our school.
 - Develop, in children, the perseverance and self-discipline needed to study on their own.
 - Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in maths and English.
 - Open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the classroom.
 - Support a range of settings in which children learn, for example through parental support and guidance, joint family learning tasks and independent learning.
 - Acknowledge that homework will continue to be an essential part of a pupil's ongoing education.

3. **Reading**

- 3.1. We believe that regular reading is vital. Wherever possible, all children should read at home every day. For children in KS1 this will largely consist of regular reading with parents, reading out loud and answering questions on the text. For more fluent readers, we encourage independent reading of at least 10 to 20 minutes per day. This may be done in the context of homework or in the other contexts (such as reading from newspapers, comics, internet sites, signs etc).
- 3.2. It is important to note that on some days, reading will be done as part of the home learning tasks, but on other days it is expected that reading time will be in addition to other homework tasks.

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4. Guidelines

- 4.1 A menu of homework activities is sent home each term. The menu is designed to include open ended activities to foster quality learning in partnership with parents and other family members. English and maths activities have a high prominence but the menu will also complement the topic theme in the class for that term.
- 4.2 Every child in Y2 and KS2 will have a homework book to complete tasks.
- 4.3 Expectations of homework will be communicated via the 'Parents' Information Sheet' at the beginning of each term and recorded on the inside cover of the child's homework book.
- 4.4 Homework will not be set during the holiday breaks.
- 4.5 Homework will be set over a ten week period during the term.
- 4.6 A record of completed homework is kept at the back of the homework book and monitored by the class teacher. All children are rewarded on a termly basis, for completion of homework with the appropriate bronze, silver and gold stickers.
- 4.7 Teachers will inform parents if children regularly fail to complete their homework.
- 4.8 The following is a guide to the homework each class will usually have.

Class	Homework
Foundation	Short sessions of a maximum of ten minutes, mainly reading. Weekly voluntary activities related to the class theme are also given.
Years 1 and 2	1 hour a week in short daily sessions.
Years 3 and 4	1 ½ hours per week
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes a day

6. Expectations

- 6.1 Teachers should:
- Explain exactly what homework has been set;
 - Make sure that the homework is appropriate to each child;
 - Ensure that sufficient time is given for homework tasks.
 - Ensure that feedback is always given.

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6.2 We believe that the support of parents is essential. Parents and families can encourage and support their children's learning by:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful and suitable place in which children can do their homework.
- Making it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school policy.
- Encouraging their child and giving praise when homework is completed.

7. **Feedback**

7.1 Not all homework at the school is the kind that is formally marked. However, feedback will be given on all tasks. In addition, homework will be rewarded through the giving of bronze, silver and gold homework stickers.

5.2 Teachers acknowledge that there may be questions parents wish to ask. Parents are welcome to come in to school to see teachers before or after school.

8. **Monitoring and evaluation of the policy**

8.1 We believe that it is important to monitor, evaluate and review home work practices at regular intervals in consultation with parents and children.

8.2 We invite formal feedback with the annual reports in July from parents.

8.3 We invite formal feedback from children annually.