



**ST. JOSEPH'S**  
**CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL**  
'LEARNING TO LOVE, LOVING TO LEARN'

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**HOMEWORK POLICY**

**Mission Statement**

St Joseph's vision is that together we are the architects of the future, building lives on the firm foundations of the gospel inspired by Christian values we aim to provide love and security within a curriculum designed to meet the complex needs of all individuals, in order to prepare them to take their place in the ever changing world of today and tomorrow.

**Aims and expectations**

We have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

**Why give homework?**

- It can inform parents about work going on in class;
- It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;
- It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and offers the chance of some individual adult time;
- It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;
- It is an opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;
- It helps to foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school.

**Homework at our school**

We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore or source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

Teachers aim to set a range of homework types e.g. online learning, making models, research, posters, as well as grammar exercises, calculations etc. We hope the children are motivated by

positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete the work. However, homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black pen, to use a ruler and dictionary where appropriate. For online learning we also expect children to adhere to the school's online safety policy and the relevant Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), which can be found at <https://www.stjosephs.wandsworth.sch.uk/online-safety>

### **Our routines and expectations**

All classes give out weekly homework on a Friday which is expected to be returned by the following Wednesday. This should be consolidation of work which has already been covered in class and not new learning. The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home as it is not our intention to send work home that the child cannot already do. When appropriate there should be a clear explanation/reminder from the teacher of what is expected and an example should be modelled at the top of the sheet.

Each child has subject specific homework book and the majority of tasks are kept in there. The tasks set will not always need to be handed in, for example, sharing information in a class discussion, putting work onto a display.

It is our policy not to give homework during the holidays or in the first week (or part of week) in the autumn, spring or summer terms. However, parents are welcome to encourage their child to undertake research, complete workbooks or to continue to practise key skills such as times tables and spellings if they wish.

Work may also be set by teachers to be completed online through our Google online learning platform or school subscriptions such as Reading Eggs and Mathletics.

### **The termly homework structure**

- On the first Friday of each term the Learning Challenge homework is taken home. This is a child initiated project –based style homework consisting of six tasks linked to Blooms Taxonomy of questioning. This homework is always due back in the last Wednesday of each half term.
- The second week of term will consist of a religious based homework task. This could be linked to the children's learning that term in class and/or the liturgical year.
- Thereafter, weekly homework tasks will relate directly to each child's English/Maths book. The number of pages to be completed will be detailed by the teacher weekly.
- Every week children are also encouraged to complete online activities to encourage reading and maths practice on Reading eggs and Mathletics.

### Homework activities and timings

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| <b>Nursery</b>                                       | Parents should share a book with their child every day  |
| <b>Reception</b><br>about ½ hour<br>each week        | Reading every day<br>Phonics activity every week (incl. Reading eggs)<br>Maths every week (Incl. Mathletics)  |
| <b>Years 1 &amp; 2</b><br>about 1 hour<br>each week  | Reading every day<br>English every week (incl. Reading eggs)<br>Phonics activity every week<br>Maths every week (incl. Mathletics)  |
| <b>Years 3 &amp; 4</b><br>about 1½ hour<br>each week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reading every day</li> <li>➤ English every week (incl. Reading eggspress)</li> <li>➤ Times tables every week</li> <li>➤ Maths every week (incl. Mathletics)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Years 5 &amp; 6</b><br>about 3¾ hour<br>each week | Reading every day (incl. Reading eggspress)<br>English every week<br>Times tables every week<br>Maths every week (incl. Mathletics)   |

Please talk to your child's teacher if you have any concerns.

**POLICY REVIEW TERM: BIENNIAL**

**Policy Reviewed:** June 2020

**Next Review:** June 2022