



**ST. MARY'S CE VC FIRST  
SCHOOL**

**HOME  
LEARNING POLICY**

**2011**

## HOME LEARNING POLICY

### Why do we have home learning?

By providing home learning we aim to:

- provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together
- to extend and support the learning experience in school by providing opportunities to practise skills
- to encourage pupils to develop good learning strategies
- to provide opportunities for parents and pupils to enjoy learning together
- to ensure the needs of individual pupils are taken into account

### How long should home learning take?

The recommended times for home learning are:

- 60 minutes a week for Key Stage One children
- 90 minutes a week for Key Stage Two children

We suggest that Reception, Years One and Two might do up to 10-15 minutes daily and Years Three and Four up to 15 - 20 minutes daily. This should include reading. However home learning should not stop children from taking part in out of school activities such as sport, music and clubs.

### How can we help at home?

Try to provide, as far as possible;

- A reasonably peaceful, suitable place for your children to do their homework.
- Encourage your children to realise that home learning is important and will help their learning in school.
- Support them in completing the tasks to the best of their ability
- Praise your children when the home learning is finished or they have completed as much as he/she can.
- Encourage your child to use the local library or look online
- Don't forget that the greatest role model for your child is you and your attitude to learning and support

Staff are always prepared to assist or answer question relating to home learning.

### **How is home learning recorded?**

Recording will be informal using either a sheet or a book depending on the age and needs of the child and the activities set. For example, phonics and letter recognition may be on a sheet whilst reading and spellings are in a book.

The learning portal also allows children to present their learning in other ways and complete tasks started in school.

The home school reading diary, 'My Reading Record', can be used to record books read and to communicate with the teacher. Children in KS2 are encouraged to complete these themselves.

These are reviewed regularly by school staff.

### **What will the teacher do?**

The teacher will regularly recognise the completion of home learning by:

- praise
- sharing with peers
- using stickers
- written comments if appropriate
- display

School staff will initial home learning tasks to acknowledge completion

### **What kinds of tasks are set for home learning?**

Activities set for regular weekly homework will be mainly based on literacy and numeracy taught in the classroom. Children may, from time to time, be given a task linked to a topic. Parents will receive a termly letter showing the topics taught in each class.

The following lists suggest some of the tasks children may be given across the different year groups at St. Mary's.

## Literacy

learning phonic sounds  
learning key words  
sharing and discussing books  
listening to reading  
re-telling the story  
word games  
letter formation  
spellings  
story writing  
diaries  
finding out information  
preparing a talk

## Numeracy

number recognition  
matching  
sorting  
sequencing  
pattern  
shape recognition  
weighing  
time, clock, day and months of year  
measuring  
money  
tables  
number problems  
calculations

In Key stage one weekly tasks will mainly focus on reading, learning of phonic sounds and key words and some number work. In Key stage two the emphasis will shift to weekly reading, writing and mathematics activities.

Tasks are normally differentiated according to the needs and ability of the learner.

Sometimes homework tasks will be based on topics taught in school such as The Great Fire of London or The Egyptians.

## Children with Learning Differences

Activities that may be given to children with learning differences are linked to their Individual Education Plans. Each activity will have a very clear focus and give plenty of opportunities for the child to succeed. Activities will focus on mainly literacy and numeracy but may help to develop social skills where necessary.