

# St Stephen Churchtown Academy



## Homework Policy

2023-2024

## Statement of intent

**St Stephen Churchtown Academy** is a vibrant, enthusiastic, forward thinking and safe learning environment in which children are given every opportunity to complete a fulfilling primary school education.

At **St Stephen**, we believe that homework plays an important part in a child's education. The benefit of doing homework must be instilled at an early age so that independent study can be achieved.

We are also aware that children have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. We will carefully consider our homework and ensure it is well-balanced across the school.

## Aims

**Our** Homework Policy aims to:

- Develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- Make sure that teaching staff, parents and pupils are aware of their responsibilities regarding homework.
- Ensure that parents have clarity on what their child is expected to do.
- Encourage pupils to develop the responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- Support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement.
- Work with parents and involve them in their child's learning and to keep them informed about the work their child is covering.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experiences by extending it beyond the classroom.
- Give pupils further practice and deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.

## **Responsibilities**

The role of the headteacher and SLT:

- Frequently check compliance and effectiveness of the policy.
- Support and/or meet with parents as appropriate.
- Inform new parents about the Homework Policy.

The role of the teacher:

- Plan and set up a regular programme of homework for pupils.
- Provide an explanation of homework tasks and ensure all pupils understand what they must do, matched to pupil ability.
- Ensure all homework given is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Monitor homework regularly and make sure pupils are completing it.
- Communicate with parents if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Be available for discussion if necessary to parents and pupils about homework.
- Set homework that is consistent across classes.
- Reward quality work and praise children who regularly complete homework.

The role of parents/carers:

- Become involved in their child's homework and encourage their child to have a positive attitude towards it, including supporting them to complete it
- Make sure that their child completes homework to a high standard and on time.
- Provide suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Praise their child and celebrate achievements with regard to their homework.
- Inform teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operate with the school to find a solution.
- Keep the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and homework.

The role of pupils:

- Take responsibility for their own learning and submit completed work in a timely manner.
- Have a positive approach towards homework.
- Put the same effort into homework as would be expected of class work.
- Make sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seek clarification if required.
- Ensure that they have everything they need to complete homework and return to school all books/stationery needed to complete their homework.
- Take pride in the presentation and content of their homework and perform to a high personal standard.

## **Homework Tasks – Current Practice**

Teachers will explain the organisation of homework to parents at the parents' welcome meeting.

Every term, the school website will inform parents about the main topics and units of work being covered by each year group – also see topic homework example (Appendix 1).

All pupils will have homework books or folders in which they complete their homework or be issued with a homework folder to keep their homework neat and organised.

Every pupil will receive weekly homework and the class teacher will inform children and parents which day it is given out and collected in.

Homework will be marked every week, either by the teacher or the pupils as a whole class. Homework may be kept in school for display purposes or to form part of the teacher's assessments.

Parents/carers are encouraged to discuss any errors with their child. If they have any queries, they should make an appointment to see their child's class teacher. Feedback from parents about their child's homework is also welcomed by the school.

At **St Stephen**, pupils will be given a weekly activity. The amount will be appropriate for the year group they are in. This will increase in Year 6 during the lead up to the SATs tests and children will be fully prepared for this. See table below.

The amount of homework will increase as the child progresses through school. Teachers may occasionally set extra homework for the whole class if they feel it would be beneficial.

The table below shows expected homework. These are guidelines. Daily reading is encouraged and tasks will be set in addition to the below activities.

Year Group	Homework	Maximum Time	Total/week
N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared Reading Record - daily</li> <li>Reading/Picture book (Summer Term)</li> <li>Topic Homework</li> </ul>	10 minutes per night <b>maximum</b>	50 minutes
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phonics/Common Exception/Tricky Words</li> <li>Reading - daily</li> <li>Topic Homework</li> <li>Spellings (Summer Term)</li> </ul>	15 minutes per night <b>maximum</b>	1 hour 15 minutes
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading - daily</li> <li>Common Exception Words/Phonics</li> <li>Maths/Literacy</li> <li>Spellings</li> <li>Topic Homework</li> </ul>	15 minutes per night <b>maximum</b>	1 hour 15 minutes
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading - daily</li> <li>Maths/Literacy</li> <li>Spellings (including Spelling Shed)</li> <li>Topic Homework</li> <li>Times tables</li> </ul>	15 minutes per night <b>maximum</b>	1 hour 15 minutes
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading - daily</li> <li>Spellings x10 (including Spelling Shed)</li> <li>Times tables</li> <li>Maths</li> <li>Literacy/Grammar</li> <li>Topic Homework</li> </ul>	20 minutes per night <b>maximum</b>	1 hour 40 minutes
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading - daily</li> <li>Spellings x10 – 15 (including Spelling Shed)</li> <li>Times tables</li> <li>Maths</li> <li>Literacy/Grammar</li> <li>Topic Homework</li> </ul>	20 minutes per night <b>maximum</b>	1 hour 40 minutes
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading - daily</li> <li>Spellings x10 - 20</li> <li>Times tables</li> <li>Maths</li> <li>Literacy/Grammar</li> <li>Topic Homework</li> </ul>	20 minutes per night <b>maximum</b>	1 hour 40 minutes
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading - daily</li> <li>Spellings x10 - 20</li> <li>Times tables</li> <li>Maths</li> <li>Literacy/Grammar</li> <li>Topic Homework</li> </ul>	30 minutes per night <b>maximum</b>	2 hours 30 minutes

## **Absences**

If the child is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will supply work for these periods if pupils are well enough to undertake work. Children are expected to catch up on missing homework.

If the child is absent for a long period of time, e.g. with a broken arm, the teacher and the parent of the child will agree on what should be done and how much help should be given to the child.

## **Pupils who fail to complete homework**

All pupils are expected to complete homework on time. Teachers will keep records of pupils completing homework which will be regularly checked. If pupils fail to complete homework, teachers will contact parents to find out why and offer support such as homework club.

## **Marking homework**

Homework may be marked in a variety of ways according to the school's marking policy. The work will be ticked to show that it has been marked. Sometimes, the work is marked in detail and comments are given on future progress. Occasionally, the work may be marked orally with the child or class. Teachers will not mark homework that is handed in late unless it is due to absence.

## **Pupils with SEND**

The school recognises that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may require that specific tasks be set in the form of Individual Education Plans.

While pupils with SEND may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework received from other pupils, it is important that they also do as much in common with other pupils.

A balanced amount of the right type of homework will be set for pupils with SEND, in consultation with the teachers and **SENDCo.**

## **Equal Opportunities**

At **St Stephen**, we are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity and social, cultural or religious background. All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability.

## **Policy review**

This policy is reviewed every year by SLT and the teaching team.

The scheduled review date for this policy is **September 2024**

**Signed by: L.James (Head of School)**

**01/09/2023**

## Appendix 1 – Topic Homework Example

