



Supporting Learning at Home Policy

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Mission Statement

"Let the light of Christ shine in us all."

Rationale

Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of good education. There is clear evidence that it helps pupils – in particular those from disadvantaged backgrounds, reach higher standards. It also allows more effective use to be made of lesson times and improve pupils' study skills and attitudes to learning.

St. Cuthbert's Mission Statement states, "We aim to enable every child to achieve their potential." Parents are a child's first teachers and after children start school parents still have a vital role in helping their children learn. Homework, set by teachers, informs parents of some of the work going on in the classroom.

Purposes of Homework:

- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences and practise key skills.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and Numeracy, and thus raise standards.
- To enhance topics with extra learning/information or facts from home.
- To encourage pupils to develop independence and individual responsibility in their learning.
- To prepare older pupils for secondary transfer.

The Type and Amount of Homework

Although the type and amount of homework may increase as children progress through the school the focus remains on practising the key skills of reading and mental maths (tables) which underpin learning in school.

Reading is a life skill, in school more time is spent on teaching children to read and less on hearing them read. KS1 children should spend approximately 10 minutes a day reading with parents and carers and looking at books together. In Key Stage 2 we recommend that children spend approximately 15 minutes a day reading – either to a parent/guardian or in preparation for a project.

Listed below is the amount of homework your child will be expected to do, the length of time they should spend doing it, the days it will be given and the day it needs to be returned.

- Nursery:** Suggested ideas to support home learning are given to parents each half term.
The children have a class library so they may borrow books to share at home.
- Reception:** Reading - reading books every night (10 minutes) as child is ready.
Phonics and key words to support literacy in school.
Half Termly Suggestions for home activities.
- Years 1/2** Reading daily (10 minutes).
Maths to support learning and weekly spelling linked to phonics phases.
- Years 3/4** Reading daily (15 minutes minimum) Parents to sign daily.
Times tables, spellings weekly and science and maths to enrich the class topics each half term.
- Years 5** Reading daily (15 minutes minimum) Parents to sign daily.
Times tables, spellings weekly linked to spelling rules and patterns.
Projects linked to topics as appropriate,
- Year 6** Reading and spellings weekly.
Reading and maths weekly and revision guides in lead up to SATs.

Role of Parents and Carers in Supporting Pupils

Teachers at St. Cuthbert's will give appropriate feedback, as soon as possible on the homework done. Spellings will be tested weekly, and maths skills tested regularly. Older pupils, in small groups, may sometimes review their own work and offer feedback to the teacher.

Teachers will welcome feedback from parents both on how well the children did the activities and on whether the activities were interesting, too hard etc.

Consequences

Children, who fail to read regularly at home, will be asked to read their book at playtimes instead. Children who fail to complete and return homework by the set date will be required to complete the task at break time.

Staff monitor homework and will inform the Headteacher and parents if it is not completed regularly.

Supporting Learning at Home Policy *Previously known as Homework Policy*