ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Home Learning Policy

Policy No: CUR01/13/10/26	Version:	2
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	Committee:	CURRICULUM
	Minute No:	CUR01/13/10/26
	Date Issued:	October 2026
	Review Date:	October 2027

Principles

This policy has been recently revised following research on best practice from the EEF Teaching and Learning toolkit, which states:

1. *Homework has a positive impact on pupil progress (+ 3 months) with pupils in primary schools.*
2. *Some pupils may not have a quiet space for home learning – it is important for schools to consider how home learning can be supported during the school day.*
3. *Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective. Providing feedback on homework has higher impacts on learning.*
4. *It is important to make the purpose of homework clear to pupils.*
5. *Involving digital technology typically has a greater impact (+ 6 months).*

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

1. To ensure a consistent approach to home learning which builds on classroom teaching and learning and is manageable for all concerned.
2. To encourage parents and carers, as the primary educators of their children to support and reinforce the shared expectations of school.

Purpose of home learning

1. To extend school learning into the home.
2. To develop effective home-school partnerships.
3. To help each child consolidate key skills and understanding in English and Maths.
4. To provide an enjoyable and purposeful supplement to classroom learning.
5. To engage and motivate children to have a thirst for learning.
6. To develop independent learning skills, self-discipline and personal organisation.

Implementing the Policy

1. Home learning is compulsory for all pupils.
2. Home learning is set on a Friday and is returned the following week.
3. Home learning is set in terms 1 – 6.
4. The format of home learning varies between the key stages and includes English and Maths consolidation activities – see below.
5. Home learning is not set over holiday periods. However, daily reading is encouraged alongside Numbots and TTRS.

Parents' role in Home Learning

Parents have been advised to:

1. Read with their child daily.
2. Find a suitable time in the week and suitable environment to complete home learning activities and give encouragement and support if they are able to.
3. Put home learning away if it is creating unnecessary distress and inform the class teacher of any difficulties at the next opportunity.

Teachers' Role in Home Learning

1. Set the home learning activities weekly.
2. Support children who are struggling with their homework by clarifying any instructions and answering any queries they may have.
3. Provide feedback on home learning. This could be marking the tasks together as a class so that the children can see where they did well or where they had misconceptions. Alternatively, if home learning is completed online, instant feedback will be provided as questions will mark themselves.

Monitoring

1. Children's response to home learning will be checked by the class teacher or learning support assistant.
2. Teachers will use their professional judgement to reward children for going above and beyond with their home learning.
3. Any family with exceptional circumstances may write to the class teacher explaining why home learning has not been completed that week and the pupil will be excused.