



St John's Primary School **Homework policy**

Rationale:

St John's Primary school promotes the view that a small amount of regular homework is important to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for all of our children. We feel that school and home share equal responsibility for learning and those children with support at home are more likely to achieve success in education.

Guidelines:

- Homework tasks should be short and should provide an opportunity for pupils to consolidate and deepen skills, knowledge and understanding from lessons taught in school.
- Where specific methods have been taught (e.g. in maths) a short explanation should be provided for parents, in order for the best support to be given at home.
- Reading books will be changed regularly at school and a Home/School Reading Diary should be maintained by both parties, providing an overview of how the child is progressing.
- Spellings will be sent home to be practiced each week, in every class from Year 1 to Year 6. These should be learnt in advance of the weekly spelling test.
- Key words and phonics will be sent home in the Early Years and Year One. Parents should support their child by practicing these regularly for short periods of time.
- Times tables are key building blocks for mathematical understanding and should be practiced regularly at home. Regular 'tests' will be carried out in class and rewards given.
- From time to time, children may be given extended homework tasks, such as a research project on a particular topic. Parents should support pupils by helping them to find the necessary information in the local library or online.
- In years 2 and 6, homework may increase prior to national test periods. It is important during these times to ensure pupils are supported to become independent learners and given a quiet place to complete tasks.

Support for pupils:

A homework club is held twice a week where staff are available to support pupils to complete tasks. Children are encouraged to attend if they find a task difficult, or parents are unable to support at home.

Marking and feedback:

Teachers may acknowledge receipt of homework by stamping or initialling work. A positive or next step comment may be written to provide feedback to pupils. Homework tasks may not be marked in as much detail as classwork, though always acknowledged.

Expectations and sanctions:

We expect all pupils to complete homework tasks by the given deadline and to a high standard. Any pupil who fails to hand homework or who hands in poorly completed work will be given a break time detention and a red Dojo (negative behaviour mark). Completion of homework tasks forms an important part of our Assertive Mentoring system and will impact on the child's overall 'attitude' grade for the term.

If a parent has concerns or questions about homework, they should speak to the class teacher to discuss it. If issues are not resolved, this may be referred to a Senior Leader in school.

September 2016

To be reviewed September 2017