



St. James' Church of England Primary School

**'Building One Faith, One
Family,
Our Future'**

Homework Policy

Reviewed by M.Tindall & A. Bibby – Spring 2024
Approved by Governors – Spring 2024

Review Date – Spring 2025 (Standards Committee)

Foundation, Vision and Intent

St James' Lower Darwen

Church of England Primary School



"Building One Faith, One Family, Our Future."

"We offer a holistic curriculum that champions our community and is aspirational."

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

through

ENRICHMENT

THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

SKATS

FORGIVENESS

COMPASSION

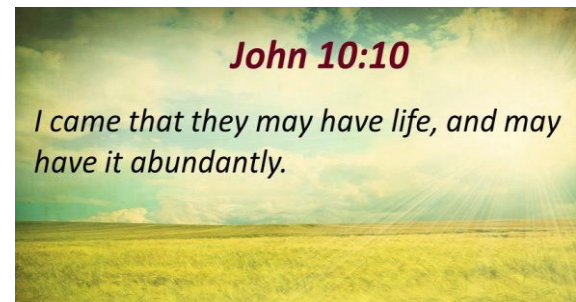
LOVE

TRUTH

JUSTICE

Jeremiah 29:11

John 10:10



We want our children to know that **God has a plan for them** that means **they live their best life possible**.

Each **policy** and procedure within school, alongside the ongoing **curriculum** delivery, our **SKATS** programme, **enrichment** and the **spiritual development** offered to our families through Worship, RE and our links with Church, work towards making this happen.

Homework Policy

Introduction

This policy has been put together after consultation with all stakeholders in school during the summer term of 2021 and reviewed in the spring term 2024. The expectations with regards to homework and the type of activities listed will support the learning that takes place every day in school. It is designed to focus on small, achievable tasks that involve engagement between a child and a supporting partner, for example, an older sibling, child minder or grandparent if parents/carers are not able to support their child.

Rationale

We believe it is vital for the parents/carers, family and friends of our children to engage with them from the moment they are born. This improves language development and understanding which underpins all learning. The St. James' vision for all homework across school is built on engagement.

When the child starts school, the important partnership between home and school begins as outlined in the Home School Agreement document signed by all parents/carers when their child starts their journey with St. James'. We encourage parents to help their children with activities which support and enhance the work done at school and parents/carers will be asked to participate in and support homework.

We believe that resting out of school and spending time with friends and family is also extremely important. This program of homework is designed to be fun and to have less time demands.

At the start of each year, individual class teachers will inform parents in their introductory letter/meeting or on the website about the pattern of homework for the class with details of how long they will be given to complete it and when it should be brought back to school. Homework across school will however take the same format.

The Homework

- **EYFS**
A Padlet is sent home to reinforce the learning that has taken place in class that week. Parents/carers log in with the password. There are sections for dancing, book of the week, worship, school prayers and notices. Children in EYFS are rewarded with a raffle ticket when they discuss their Padlet homework.
- **Homework booklets Y1-Y6**
Each half term children will be given a homework booklet. This booklet will consist of a piece of number work and a sheet of spellings per week. At the start of each half term, children will take the booklet home to complete both the Maths and Spellings for each week. Homework will be handed in weekly to be checked in class.

Homework Heroes (Whole School)

To encourage a sense of pride and ownership we are rewarding children who complete each piece of homework with a raffle ticket. At the end of every half term, there will be a draw for each class. There will be a prize for the winners. If children do not lose their homework booklet then they will get an extra 5 raffle tickets for the draw.

Children who do not complete homework/home reading will be targeted by class staff to allow them the opportunity to complete their reading/homework. During Breakfast Club, there will also be a chance to complete homework and reading with a staff member.

- **Daily Reading**
We are aiming to promote and develop a love of reading in our children from an early age. **Children who are read to and share books with adults generally will achieve more highly than those who are not read to.** We ask that the children bring their

reading books to school every day and we will change them as often as possible during the week. Please record the day's reading in the children's reading record. We advise that you spend at least **ten minutes per day** reading with your child. If you would like any guidance or support about reading with your child, please ask their class teacher.

- **Basic Key Skills**

Teachers may ask the children to work on basic key skills relevant to their learning. If extra pieces of homework are sent then the class teacher will speak to Parents/Carers individually to let them know about this.

This could include:

- important words/key words/tricky words the children need to learn to read;
- short activities linked to phonics;
- spellings;
- short reading comprehension tasks
- short writing tasks
- handwriting
- maths skills e.g. Number bonds, times tables, doubling, halving etc.

National Assessments

There are times during the year when staff are preparing children for important national assessments. These include:

- Year 1 and 2 phonics screening;
- Year 2 reading and maths assessments;
- Year 4 times tables screening;
- Year 6 reading, grammar, spelling and maths assessments.

If a child is in any of these year groups, in the lead up to the summer term when these assessments take place, you may see a slight increase in the amount of homework. This will be meaningful and well planned to help the children work towards their targets and feel confident and comfortable during the assessment sessions. Our younger children will be unaware they are being assessed so please share any concerns you have with their teacher and try not to mention the tests.

Special Educational or medical Needs (SEND)

Pupils with special educational needs, disabilities or medical conditions should participate fully in all areas of school life where possible. Homework is no different. However, teachers will be aware of how a child's medical condition or educational need will impact on their participation in homework. There should be enough flexibility for all children to participate according to their own abilities with reasonable adjustments. Parents/carers should liaise with school staff if they have any concerns in this area.

Monitoring Homework

Where children are consistently not undertaking homework tasks or not reading at home we will work with families to establish why and offer support where we are able to. Parents and carers should expect that their child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will contact them to establish why children are not completing homework tasks, so support can be offered if needed.

Sharing Concerns

Any concerns around homework should be shared with your child's class teacher. If they are unable to resolve the issues, concerns will be passed to one of the school's senior leaders.

If the issue is still not resolved, parents and carers should follow the school's complaints policy which can be found in the policy section of the school website or by asking at the school office.