



Blessed Sacrament RC Primary



Homework Policy

Philosophy and purpose

The Governors and staff at Blessed Sacrament School believe that homework is an important part of learning and an opportunity to foster effective relationships and links between home and school life. Homework provides an ideal opportunity to share learning with parents and carers and is another way in which school can inform parents of topics covered in class. The school values the support of parents and also recognises that homework must fit around family lifestyles and other commitments.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- ✓ Bring formal structure to the learning that takes place at home.
- ✓ Ensure consistency of approach by all teachers across the school.
- ✓ Develop effective partnerships and links between home and school.
- ✓ Give pupils and parents a clear understanding of expectations regarding homework in school.

Homework at Blessed Sacrament takes 3 main forms:

- 1) Reading
- 2) Times tables (Y2-Y6)
- 3) Learning log tasks (Y2-Y6) or talking homework (YR & Y1)

Frequency and quantity of homework

There is an expectation that all children will practise reading at home with parents regularly (5 minutes each night) from the point at which they start school. This could be reading to an adult, or being read to by an adult. In the older classes, children may want to read alone, and parents should encourage this independent reading. Children in younger classes may be sent home phonics based reading and spelling work eg 'tricky word tubs', sound books or lists of key words to learn. Reading little and often is better than reading only once a week for a longer period of time. Reading does not have to be a school reading book (although this is recommended when children are young and learning to read). Reading can also be books from the library or home, comics, newspapers and magazines.

In addition to this, children from year 2 upwards are expected to spend a short amount of time (5 minutes each night) practising times tables with an adult. Below are the expectations for times tables to be known in each class.

Year group	Children should know
2	2 x table 5 x table 10 x table
3	All previous years times tables and also: 3 x table 4 x table 9 x table 11 x table
4	All previous years times tables and also: 6 x table 7 x table 8 x table
5 and 6	All times tables including inverse. eg $18 \div 6 = 3$

No specific homework tasks will be set for times tables. The responsibility lies with the parents to practise these orally, or through the use of educational websites which can be found using online search engines.

In Reception and Year 1, the children will be given 'talking homework'. This comes in a book is given weekly. It is sent home on a Friday and the book should be returned by the following Friday. The book will give brief details of what has been covered in class during the week and will give ideas for parents of things to talk to children about at home connected with the learning. Parents are best placed to judge the suitable amount of time spent talking with their child about their learning.

From Year 2 upwards, homework at Blessed Sacrament takes the form of 'learning logs'. Learning log tasks:

- ✓ Will be set weekly – Given on a Tuesday and returned by the following Monday.
- ✓ Can be connected with any curriculum area but a balance of subjects should be covered throughout the year.
- ✓ Will be linked with, and reinforce, learning in class and should consolidate learning rather than introduce new concepts.

Time spent completing Learning Log tasks

Learning log tasks should be short and exploration based wherever possible. The length of time expected from homework learning log tasks should be increased as children progress through the school. Below are the details of the approximate expected time for a learning log task to be completed in each year group:

Year Group	Approximate total length of time to complete learning log homework tasks
Year 2	20 minutes
Year 3	20 minutes
Year 4	30 minutes
Year 5	30 minutes
Year 6	45 minutes

Roles and responsibilities

Governors

The Governors have delegated powers and responsibility to the curriculum committee to approve the homework policy.

Governors delegate responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the policy to the Headteacher.

Headteacher

It is the Headteacher's responsibility to:

- Promote and raise the status of homework with staff, parents & pupils.
- Ensure homework is built into teacher's planning.
- Provide clear information about homework to parents.

Staff

It is expected that staff will:

- Integrate homework into planning.
- Set interesting tasks and activities.
- Follow the school's policy regarding frequency and amount.

Whilst staff will encourage children to complete homework activities, they will not spend a disproportionate amount of time 'chasing homework'.

Parents

Parents are responsible for:

- Supporting the school's homework policy by valuing homework tasks.
- Encouraging children to complete activities.
- Replacing the learning log if it gets lost or damaged before the academic year ends.

Pupils

It is expected that pupils will:

- Complete and hand in homework and hand it in on time.
- Highlight to the school council any ideas and thoughts about homework.

Marking of homework

Staff will acknowledge children's achievements in their homework. Marking will be completed in line with the school's marking policy. Staff will not spend a disproportionate time marking homework. Homework not returned on time will not be 'back marked'.

Training

Staff will meet at least annually in staff meeting time to discuss homework and review policy and procedures.

Sharing the policy

The policy will be revised and shared with Governors at least once every three years. Staff who are new to the school will be given a copy of the policy during their induction. The policy will be posted on the school website.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing body will review this policy at least once every two years. This responsibility is delegated to the Curriculum Committee.

Approval date: Spring 2016 (implementation Summer 2017)

Review Date: Summer 2020