



ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Diocese of Westminster

Homework Policy 2020

Mission Statement: 'We are special people on a journey, growing and learning together, in search of excellence, as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus.'

Community Prayer: "Let us pray for one another, no matter what our culture, nationality, disability or gender, let us all be one in His name."

Values: Love, Respect, Honesty.

Vision: We want to provide a broad and balanced curriculum in which Religious Education is at the heart and allows children to know what it means to be a catholic. A curriculum that encourages them to be critical thinkers and problem solvers who can retain and articulate their knowledge. We want our children to have positive relationships for healthy wellbeing and to know the importance of physical health and safety for themselves and others.

Introduction

This policy has been written following consultation between staff, governors, parents and pupils at English Martyrs Catholic School. Through our Homework Policy we aim to:

- ensure a consistent approach to homework across the school
- ensure parents / carers can support their children effectively
- extend and support our children's learning ensuring they all reach their potential
- contribute to good Home-School communication

The Purpose of Homework

At English Martyrs School we believe that homework is important because it:

- reinforces work done in school.
- helps to develop independent working.
- keeps parents informed about school work
- gets our oldest children into good practice for Secondary School
- helps to raise children's attainment
- gives parents an opportunity to spend time with their children
- helps to identify areas for improvement
- helps parents to see what their child is finding difficult

The Nature of Homework

- Homework at English Martyrs will be set every week, but not during holidays. However reading will continue over the whole academic year.
- Teachers will set the amount of work according to age and ability and the work should continue and consolidate weekly learning in class.
- Homework for the whole school is Daily reading. Children are given a Reading record to complete - Years 1-3 by parents and Years 4-6 by the children. This will be checked regularly by teacher or teaching Assistants.
- All classes will set a form of comprehension weekly from Year 2- Year 6. This will be checked as a group in class or marked individually by the teacher.
- All classes will set Maths homework using Mathletics UK, which uses the same scheme as we use in class. Each child has a logon and password. Mathletics is checked and set weekly.

- Spelling is set weekly in all classes and children will be asked to find definitions and use their spellings in a sentence from Years 3-6
- Children all have access to Purple Mash and LGFL online safety scheme. They are encouraged to use these resources at home; either as set specific tasks by the teacher or more usually to enrich their learning from class as a voluntary extra homework activity.
- All other Homework tasks at English Martyrs will vary depending on the age of the child.
- Homework tasks will sometimes be based on topics being studied in class for RE, Science, History or Geography.
- Homework will be differentiated (either by task or by outcome) to take account of individual pupils' needs.
- Possible Homework tasks could include:

Foundation Stage

- Reading, completing Reading Record weekly and phonics practice.

Year 1

- Daily Reading, completing Reading Record weekly and phonics practice.
- Weekly Mathematics exercises
- Weekly Spellings

Year 2

- Daily Reading and completing Reading Record
- Weekly Spellings
- Weekly Mathematics Exercises
- Weekly Maths task to consolidate learning in class
- From Mid-Autumn Weekly Reading comprehension passage
- Half termly RE homework – eg a prayer
- Half termly Topic homework eg a project about their History topic

Key Stage 2

- Daily Reading and completing Reading Record
- Weekly spellings and definitions with sentences.
- Weekly Comprehension
- Weekly Mathematics or Maths task worksheet
- Half termly RE homework – eg – researching a Saint
- Half termly Topic homework eg preparing a presentation about their History or Making observations for Science.

Expectations

- Homework is to be done in pencil in Key Stage 1 or black pen if a pen license has been gained in Key Stage 2
- All lines must be drawn with a ruler using pencil only
- Neat and tidy handwriting to be used at all times
- Errors to be crossed out with a neat pencil line and not erased
- All working out will be shown for Maths work (if on paper)

Communication

- Staff will inform parents via Class Newsletters at the start of each long term as to homework arrangements for the year. These newsletters are also displayed on our school website.
- Children will have some weekdays and a weekend to complete the homework.
- Parents are encouraged to write comments to teachers under the completed piece of work.
- If work cannot be complete please make sure that the class teacher knows the reason why via a message or letter.

Marking and Feedback of Homework

- Class teachers will mark homework tasks each week.
- Any common misconceptions will be addressed in class.

Support with Homework

- Parents are encouraged to talk to class teachers if they have any queries regarding homework.
- Mathematics Logons are kept safely in school and can be requested of children who lose their Logon.
- If access to a computer is difficult the class teacher can provide similar work using worksheets. Parent must make this arrangement with the class teacher.
- Workshops for parents of children in Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will be held in order to support parents with English and Maths at home.

Homework Club

- At English Martyrs we recognise that completing homework for some pupils may present difficulties especially for parents with late hours in the evening. To address this, we offer a Homework Club after school for After-school Club pupils.
- If homework is consistently not completed children will be given some teacher support during lunch-break or playtime to find out why this is happening. However we would strongly urge that children (especially KS2 pupils) are encouraged by parents to finish homework and if they have a problem to discuss with the teacher as this develops a good routine for secondary school.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body will:

- Take responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure that homework is built into teachers' planning and ensure consistency across the school
- Provide supportive guidance for parents
- Keep up to date with new developments with regards to homework
- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Teachers will:

- Integrate homework into their planning
- Set a variety of tasks and activities for homework
- Set homework appropriate for each child
- Explain when, what and how the work will be done so that each child clearly understands what he/she must do
- Provide opportunities for the sharing of homework tasks in class as appropriate and provide timely feedback to pupils
- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Parents / Carers are asked to:

- Support the homework set
- Read with their child and make a note in their child's Reading Record for the whole primary school life
- Support the school in explaining to children that homework is valued and aids learning
- Encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed
- Be actively involved in the homework of their children
- Contact the class teacher/ school if they are not sure of some aspect of the homework or their child is experiencing difficulty doing it. For example access to a computer for Mathematics
- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Children are asked to:

- Complete their homework and hand it in on time
- Listen carefully in class to make sure they understand what is asked of them
- Have a go at all homework activities and take a pride in their work.
- Act on feedback given by the teacher