



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

March 2019



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School Homework Policy

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Flow Chart Outlining Homework Expectations

At the beginning of the school year a homework journal is given to each child – this contains a parental comments sheet.



At the beginning of each half term Parents will be directed to the school website to look at the Topic Web outlining objectives the children will be learning.



At the beginning of each term children will be provided with an extended project homework and stuck into their journals. This homework is designed to be completed over the term. This may include: researching a written project on a chosen title provided, researching information and making a 2D drawing or 3D design e.g. making a Roman Shield, making and presenting a PowerPoint presentation etc.



Weekly homework is handed out on **Friday**. A homework activity sheet will be placed in the journal – this will also contain any extra information the child/parent needs to complete the homework e.g. a website address, a rule to support a spelling rule etc



Families can complete homework as they please. If they do not complete homework one week eg they have had a busy family orientated weekend, children will not be chased up or reprimanded.



Homework is returned the following **Wednesday**. Teachers will mark the work using ticks, stamps and house points.



Those who regularly do not complete homework will be approached, as it is important that some learning does take place at home. In these instances, the teachers do not reprimand the child but will arrange to meet and talk with the parents directly.

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Rationale

- Homework can be a valuable way of motivating children to engage in the learning process, to reinforce skills taught at school and as a means of communication with parents about teaching and learning in school and their own child's progress.
- We know that parents want to be partners in their children's learning however they need a clear homework structure to enable this.

Aims

- It is strongly felt that homework should not provide a burden within family life. Children should be involved in a wide range of out-of-school activities / family activities which homework should not jeopardise – especially at primary school age
- Homework should therefore be in manageable amounts and should be easily understood. We prefer that our homework can be fitted into normal family routines, rather than seen as an extra task to be fitted into busy lives
- The school therefore aims to make homework enjoyable and not a 'chore'.
- We also believe that the homework journal is an additional method of providing information to parents about current teaching and learning in school.
- Teachers value homework and will look at and acknowledge work undertaken at home weekly. Homework should not become an extra marking/assessment burden for teachers. The teacher will not mark in depth but will acknowledge they have seen the work with a stamp. House points will be given for effort, where appropriate.

Guidelines

- From year R to Year 6 staff will set work weekly on Friday to be collected on Wednesday. Reception/KS1 homework will consist of a spelling activity and a practical/ICT based maths activity.
- All children are expected to read daily.
- Year 2 children onwards should also practice times tables. Year 2 should learn X2, X3, X5 and X10 tables. Year 3 children should also learn X4 and X8. Year 4 children should also learn X6, X7, X9, X11 and X 12 tables. Years 5 and 6 children should learn all tables from X2 to X12 tables.
- Each child will have a homework book.
- At the start of each term, your child will be set a Topic based take home task to complete.
- These tasks will be explained, in class, to children before homework is given out.
- Homework should be set at a level that doesn't require a great amount of parental support and can be completed independently. If parents believe that homework is not set at the right level, they should discuss this with the teacher.
- Homework will always be marked weekly.
- Marking will include the use of ticks and stamps to acknowledge the child's efforts –
- house points will be given to praise effort as appropriate.
- Children in Year 6 will be given additional homework for revision purposes and in preparation for secondary school.
- Tasks are not compulsory. Families can complete homework as they please. If they do not complete homework one week eg they have had a busy family orientated weekend, children will not be chased up or reprimanded. Those who regularly do not complete homework will be approached however as it is important that some learning does take place at home. In these instances, do not reprimand the child but talk to the parents directly. Therefore, teachers must not reward all children who bring back homework on a weekly basis eg by using

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house points etc but only reward individuals on specific homework merit such as effort. It is expected however, that in Year 5 and 6 children take responsibility for their own learning and complete homework weekly in preparation for SATS and secondary school.

- Children have the opportunity to complete homework in school if they have not been able to do it at home.
- Homework must not be essential to forthcoming classroom lessons.

Specific Subject Homework Guidelines

LITERACY

Reading – This will be encouraged nightly. Parents are encouraged to write/sign on the weekly page in reading record/log.

All children will be taught reading skills through daily Guided Reading daily phonic activities. Children are encouraged to take books home every night. Children will be directed to books based on ability. They are encouraged to 'have a go' at reading and parents are encouraged to enjoy reading with their children by getting involved in the stories and helping to develop their child's response to written texts. This could involve parents reading to their child and asking them to predict what happened next or just talking through the pictures and discussing characters feelings. Every child should read every night. We strongly encourage parents to read to, and with, their children and enjoy sharing this together.

Spelling - As with reading, spelling will be *taught* and assessed regularly in school.

Year R – 2 follow the Read Write Inc Phonics programme whilst Year 2 to 6 will continue with the Read Write Inc Spelling programme. Year 6 will review all spelling patterns where necessary. The children will be expected to place the spellings words in sentences to demonstrate they understand the meaning of the words to spell.

MATHS

Maths homework will be based on an activity linked to work in class and children in KS2 will be referred to the Mymaths website. Workshops for parents exploring how we teach maths calculations will be provided in the Autumn term.

TOPIC - Take home task (Science/ History /Geography / other Foundation subjects)

Work in these subjects can be used to develop the above basic skills, as well as research etc. This will be in the form of a termly activity that supports work in school. Such half termly tasks can fulfil the *fun* / motivational part of our rationale and be meaningful and parent-friendly. They can feed into class work but class work must not be dependent on its completion.

Parents are informed of the topic overview the children will be learning by referring to the Topic Web on the school website.

SUGGESTED READING TIMES WITH YOUR CHILD AT HOME

Minimum reading every night:

Reception:	10 Minutes
Year 1:	10 Minutes
Year 2:	15 Minutes
Year 3:	20 Minutes
Year 4:	25 Minutes
Year 5 and 6:	30 Minutes