

# Homework Policy



*“Our school is a place where we all come together as one community to learn, have fun and make lasting friendships all under God’s love and care”*

|                     |                  |                      |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Approved by:        | SLT<br>Governors | Date: September 2023 |
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## 1. Policy aims

The Homework Policy and Procedures at St Lawrence Catholic Primary School are designed to encourage and develop study skills and to provoke interest and enquiry. We wish to develop a 'Love of Learning'

At St Lawrence we aim:

- \* To encourage independence, research and initiative
- \* To consolidate and reinforce skills learned in school
- \* To give parents opportunities to share and enjoy aspects of their  
Children's educational development
- \* To create a disciplined approach to homework as preparation for the  
coming years

Parents will be asked to support and encourage their child to foster a positive attitude towards homework. There is no educational value to homework done in a stressful situation. It is not intended that homework should create anxiety for parents or children. Homework should be accessible and achievable and appropriate to the age and needs of pupils. It is intended to reinforce learning and develop independence.

Homework will be marked and monitored with or by the teacher. The successful monitoring and completion of homework can only be undertaken with the support of both parents and school.

## 2. Organisation and guidance

**Reading:** throughout Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, reading at home on a daily basis is expected. We hope to nurture a love of reading including comprehension skills, prediction, evaluating and discussing texts and vocabulary.

**Homework in Foundation and Key Stage One (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2):** The importance of reading on a regular basis is encouraged from early years. All children should be encouraged to read or be read to every night from a wide range of texts e.g. non-fiction, poetry, nursery rhymes, plays, stories.

Parents are asked to write a short comment in their child's Reading Diary.

In Foundation stage other types of homework include bringing in objects, books or developing work for 'showing'. In Reception from the Spring Term, homework will be more formal and set fortnightly.

In Years 1 and 2 spellings and timetables will be set on a weekly basis. All classes have access to Mathletics and teachers will set appropriate tasks each week. (A separate Topic or RE based homework task may be set) All tasks will be recorded in pupils Reading/Homework diaries and Parents are encouraged to comment in the diary.

### **Homework at Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6):**

#### Reading

The importance of reading on a regular basis is encouraged through all years in Stage 2. All children should be encouraged to read or be read to every night from a wide range of texts e.g. non-fiction, poetry, plays, stories.

In Years 3 and 4, parents are asked to write a short comment in their child's Reading Diary. From Year 5, children are encouraged to write a comment about what they have read with the parent initialling the entry. Parents can make additional comments if needed.

## Homework tasks

In Key stage 2, the children will be encouraged to develop their homework skills with a more defined homework commitment.

All key stage 2 children will receive weekly tasks in: spellings, times tables/arithmetic, Mathematics and reading comprehension.

On completion of homework, parents are requested to sign the child's diary.

Homework will be given on a Friday to be returned the following Friday.

Recommended times are given below for homework tasks.

If a child is highly motivated and wishes to continue beyond the recommended time, parents might feel it is beneficial to continue. Likewise, if a child is finding a task too challenging or it is taking too long, parents should stop and record this in the diary so teachers can support pupils and adapt activities.

### **Time guidance and reading expectations per year group.**

#### **Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1**

|               | Nursery                                                   | Reception            | Year 1                  | Year 2               |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Homework Task | 5 minutes per night.<br>Sharing books and nursery rhymes. | 10 minutes per night | 10-15 minutes per night | 15 minutes per night |

#### **Key Stage 2**

|               | Year 3               | Year 4                   | Year 5                | Year 6                  |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Homework Task | 15 minutes per night | 15- 20 minutes per night | 20 minutes per night. | 20-30 minutes per night |

### Outline of homework tasks per year group.

|           | Reading                                      | Phonics                          | Mathletics                        |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nursery   | Sharing books and nursery rhymes             |                                  |                                   |
| Reception | 2 books per week<br>1 library book per week. | 1 sheet per week on reading day. | 1 game per week from Spring term. |

|        | Reading                                          | Phonics   | Mathletics | Spellings                                  | Times tables                      | Reading Comprehension |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Year 1 | 2 books per week<br><br>Up to 10 mins per night  | Weekly    | Weekly     | Weekly<br>linked to phonics                |                                   |                       |
| Year 2 | *3 books per week<br><br>Up to 15 mins per night | If needed | Weekly     | Weekly<br>Alternate weeks from Spring Term | Alternate weeks from Spring Term. | Weekly                |

\*Children must read their book from the Reading scheme first and can then choose other books for own reading

|        | Reading                                                       | Spellings | Mathletics or Times tables | Reading Comprehension |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Year 3 | 2 or 3 books per week/3 entries per week<br>15 mins per night | Weekly    | Weekly                     | Weekly                |
| Year 4 | 4 entries per week<br>Up to 20 mins per night                 | Weekly    | Weekly                     | Weekly                |

\*Children must read their book from the Reading scheme first and can then choose other books for own reading

|        | Reading                                       | Spellings | Mathletics/ Arithmetic | Reading Comprehension |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Year 5 | 5 entries per week<br>20 mins per night       | Weekly    | Weekly                 | Weekly                |
| Year 6 | 5 entries per week<br>Up to 30 mins per night | Weekly    | Weekly                 | Weekly                |

Children who have not completed their weekly homework will be asked to complete it in a playtime.

In Juniors a short period is dedicated each week for the valuing of homework.

From Year 2, a lunchtime Homework club is available for a limited number of pupils who may require extra support/time or resources. Class teachers will allocate places to pupils as needed each week.

### **Holiday Homework:**

It is the belief at St Lawrence's that holidays are for rest and spending time with families. However we would encourage making visits to places of interest such as museums and galleries, parks etc. In Foundation Stage it is beneficial when photographs or a picture/comment of such visits are added into their Learning Journals.

In year 6 it is necessary to set revision homework during the Easter holidays in preparation for their SATS tests.

At St Lawrence's we appreciate the support of Parents with homework tasks and we encourage parents to get in touch if there are any problems. Similarly if we have problems we will contact parents so we can work together to ensure homework is a positive and valid experience for all.