

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”

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Contents

1. Policy Aims

2 . Organisation and planning

1. Policy aims

The Homework Policy and procedures at St Lawrence Catholic Primary School are designed to encourage and develop study skills and to stimulate 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 checked, monitored and given appropriate feedback by the teacher, with pupils involved where appropriate. Successful monitoring and completion of homework depend on support from both parents/carers and the school.

2. Organisation and planning

Homework in the EYFS and Key Stage 1 (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2):

Throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, daily reading at home is expected. We hope to nurture a love of reading and develop comprehension skills through predicting, evaluating and discussing texts and vocabulary.

Regular reading is encouraged from the early years. All children should be encouraged to read or be read to every night from a wide range of texts, such as non-fiction, poetry, nursery rhymes, plays and stories.

Parents/carers are asked to write a short comment in their child's reading diary.

In the EYFS, other types of homework include bringing in objects or books, or preparing something to share with the class. Reception homework includes a weekly phonics sheet and, from the Spring term, a weekly Mathletics game, as shown in the table below.

In Years 1 and 2, homework is set in line with the year-group table below. Year 1 spellings are linked to phonics. In Year 2, spellings are set weekly until the Spring term, when spellings and times tables alternate each week.

Both year groups have access to Mathletics, and teachers set appropriate tasks weekly. A separate topic or RE homework task may also be set.

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

Reading

Regular reading is encouraged throughout Key Stage 2. All children should be encouraged to read or be read to every night from a wide range of texts, such as non-fiction, poetry, plays and stories.

In Years 3 and 4, parents/carers 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 a parent/carer initialling the entry. Parents/carers can make additional comments if needed.

Homework tasks

In Key Stage 2, children are encouraged to develop their homework skills through a more defined homework commitment.

All Key Stage 2 children receive weekly spelling, maths and reading comprehension tasks, as outlined in the year-group tables below.

On completion of homework, parents/carers are requested to sign their child's diary.

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

All Key Stage 2 homework tasks will be available on Google Classroom each Friday.

Recommended daily reading times are given below. The year-group tables also show the frequency of other homework tasks.

If a child is highly motivated and wishes to read for longer than the recommended time, parents/carers may feel it is beneficial to continue. If a homework task is too challenging or takes too long, parents/carers should stop and record this in the diary so that teachers can support pupils and adapt activities.

Daily reading guidance by year group

EYFS and Key Stage 1

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Daily reading	5 minutes per night. 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
Daily reading	15 minutes per night	15- 20 minutes per night	20 minutes per night.	20-30 minutes per night

Outline of homework tasks by year group

	Reading	Phonics	Mathletics
Nursery	Sharing books and nursery rhymes		
Reception	2 books per week 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 Up to 15 mins per night	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly		
Year 2	*3 books per week Up to 15 mins per night	If needed	Weekly	Weekly until Spring; then alternate weeks	Alternate weeks from Spring term.	Weekly

*Children should read their reading-scheme book first and may then choose other books for their own reading.

	Reading	Spellings	Mathletics or Times tables	Reading comprehension
Year 3	2 or 3 books per week/2-3 entries per week 15 mins per night	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly
Year 4	4 entries per week Up to 20 mins per night	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly

*Children should read their reading-scheme book first and may then choose other books for their own reading.

	Reading	Spellings	Mathletics/ Arithmetic	Reading comprehension
Year 5	5 entries per week 20 mins per night	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly
Year 6	5 entries per week Up to 30 mins per night	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly

Children who have not completed their weekly homework will be asked to complete it during a playtime, with any difficulties or additional support needs taken into account.

In Key Stage 2, a short period is dedicated each week to reviewing and valuing 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 allocate places to pupils as needed each week.

Holiday homework

At St Lawrence, we believe that holidays are for rest and spending time with families. However, we encourage visits to places of interest, such as museums, galleries and parks.

In the EYFS, photographs, pictures or comments about these visits can be shared with staff for inclusion in children's learning journals.

In Year 6, revision homework is set during the Easter holidays in preparation for the end-of-Key-Stage-2 national curriculum tests (SATs).

At St Lawrence, we appreciate the support of parents/carers with homework tasks and encourage them to get in touch if there are any difficulties. Similarly, if difficulties arise at school, we will contact parents/carers so that we can work together to ensure homework is a positive and worthwhile experience for all.