

# St. Mary' P.S. Draperstown

## Homework Policy



UNCRC Articles:3, 12, 17, 22, 23, 29, 31,

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Policy Reviewed    | April 2025 |
| Due to be Reviewed | April 2028 |

## **CONTENTS**

- Mission Statement
- Introduction
- Aims
- Nature of Homework
- Homework at Key Stages
- Recommended Time Allocation for Homework Tasks
- The Role of the Parent/Carer: General Information for Parents
- The Role of the Child
- The Role of the Class Teacher
- The Role of the Principal SMT and B.O.G.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

At St. Mary's we believe that all children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups or individuals. We are committed to creating a positive climate that will enable all children to achieve their full potential.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The school policy for homework was developed and agreed by the whole staff in consultation with parents and pupils. It was ratified by the Board of Governors of St Mary's P.S. Draperstown.

## **AIMS**

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure all families have the means to access and support their children with their homework. Consideration will be given to families who have difficulty accessing the internet, a device or a digital means of communication e.g., Seesaw/Teams.
- Ensure that parents have a clear understanding of how to access their child's homework.
- Ensure that parents have a clear understanding what their child is expected to do and how they can help them.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to consolidate learning and help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents to work in partnership with their children and the school to achieve the best learning outcomes.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.

- Enable children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self discipline needed to study independently.

## THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK

Homework can be set in different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. The following points need to be considered when setting homework:

1. Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family, or the teacher. If there are any issues with homework, please contact the class teacher.
2. The nature, type, amount, and frequency of homework may increase as a pupil gets older, depending on class routines, your child's level of need and their capacity to cope with additional work after school.
3. Children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 will need support to complete homework.

## ACCESSING HOMEWORK

Communication regarding homework is made digitally in all classes.

| Class | Means of Communication | Frequency/Mean   |
|-------|------------------------|------------------|
| P1    | Homework Packs         | Daily            |
| P2    | Homework Packs         | Daily            |
| P3    | Seesaw and Teams       | Weekly Timetable |
| P4    | Seesaw and Teams       | Weekly Timetable |
| P5    | Seesaw and Teams       | Weekly Timetable |
| P6    | Seesaw and Teams       | Weekly Timetable |
| P7    | Seesaw and Teams       | Weekly Timetable |

## HOMEWORK AT KEY STAGES

The following are examples of tasks and activities that can be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and may change. Many of these tasks will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities may change to meet the needs of individual pupils and may also change because of topics or activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks will have a clear purpose and will assist pupils in their academic development.

### FOUNDATION STAGE

| P1 HOMEWORK                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday - Thursday                          | <b>Daily Homework</b><br>Each child's homework will be updated daily. Homework consists of four tasks set across each week. Tasks may be practical or a recording activity and are rotated daily across the Primary 1 class. Homework activities should be returned each day to allow all children to have an opportunity to use practical materials.       |
| Reading                                    | Reading books will be sent home in Term 2 and Term 3, as pupils display reading readiness.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Other ongoing homework activities include: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phonics homework, reinforcing blends</li><li>• Letter identification and formation</li><li>• Word identification (tricky words)</li><li>• Recognition of digits, forming numbers and counting sets</li><li>• Mental maths- counting forwards, backwards, identifying numbers before, after and in between</li></ul> |

| P2 HOMEWORK                                     |                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Monday                                          | Reading, Spellings, Spelling Activity              |
| Tuesday                                         | Reading, Spellings, Numeracy Activity              |
| Wednesday                                       | Reading, Spellings, Literacy Activity              |
| Thursday                                        | Reading, Spellings, World Around Us/PATHS/Religion |
| Focus for the Week<br>Mental Maths<br>Key Words |                                                    |

Key Stage 1

| P3 HOMEWORK |                                                                                         |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday      | Reading<br>Spellings<br>Mental Maths<br>Written activity linked to Spellings            |
| Tuesday     | Reading<br>Spellings<br>Mental Maths<br>Written Numeracy activity                       |
| Wednesday   | Reading<br>Spellings<br>Mental Maths<br>Written Literacy activity                       |
| Thursday    | Reading<br>Revision of spelling and Numeracy facts in preparation for Friday assessment |

| <b>P4 HOMEWORK</b> |                                                                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>      | Reading<br>Spellings<br>Mental Maths<br>Written activity linked to spelling |
| <b>Tuesday</b>     | Reading<br>Spellings<br>Mental Maths<br>Written Numeracy Activity           |
| <b>Wednesday</b>   | Reading<br>Spelling<br>Mental Maths<br>Written Literacy Activity            |
| <b>Thursday</b>    | Reading<br>Spellings<br>Mental Maths                                        |

#### **KEY STAGE 2**

| <b>P5 HOMEWORK</b>               |                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday - Thursday</b>         | Spellings skills/tables Miscellaneous Numeracy facts and rules                                                                                        |
| <b>Monday</b>                    | Reading - set pages<br>Spellings<br>Written spelling activity                                                                                         |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                   | Reading - set pages<br>Spellings<br>Written numeracy activity                                                                                         |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                 | Reading - set pages<br>Spellings<br>Written literacy activity                                                                                         |
| <b>Thursday</b>                  | Reading - set pages<br>Revision of spellings and numeracy for Friday<br>Assessments                                                                   |
| <b>Other on-going activities</b> | Reading and responding to novels<br>ICT Based research/re-drafting/word processing<br>Planning and preparation for presentations and class assemblies |

| <b>P6 HOMEWORK</b>               |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday - Thursday</b>         | <b>Spellings skills/tables Miscellaneous Numeracy facts and rules</b>                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Monday</b>                    | <b>Reading - Set pages</b><br><b>Spellings</b><br><b>Written Spelling activity</b><br><b>Written Numeracy activity</b>                                                                             |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                   | <b>Reading - Set pages</b><br><b>Spellings</b><br><b>Written Literacy activity</b><br><b>Written Numeracy activity</b>                                                                             |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                 | <b>Reading - Set pages</b><br><b>Spellings</b><br><b>Written Literacy activity</b><br><b>Written Numeracy activity</b>                                                                             |
| <b>Thursday</b>                  | <b>Reading - 30 minutes of own choice</b><br><b>Revision of Spellings and Numeracy for Friday Assessments</b>                                                                                      |
| <b>Other on-going activities</b> | <b>Reading and responding to novels</b><br><b>ICT Based research/re-drafting/word processing</b><br><b>Planning and preparation for presentations and class assemblies</b><br><b>Religion/PDMU</b> |

| <b>P7 HOMEWORK</b>               |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday - Thursday</b>         | <b>Spellings skills/tables Miscellaneous Numeracy facts and rules</b>                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Monday</b>                    | <b>Reading - set pages</b><br><b>Spellings</b><br><b>Written spelling activity</b><br><b>Written Numeracy activity</b>                                                                                   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                   | <b>Reading - set pages</b><br><b>Spellings</b><br><b>Written Literacy activity</b><br><b>Written Numeracy activity</b>                                                                                   |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                 | <b>Reading - set pages</b><br><b>Spellings</b><br><b>Written Literacy activity</b><br><b>Written Numeracy activity</b>                                                                                   |
| <b>Thursday</b>                  | <b>Reading - 30 minutes of own choice</b><br><b>Revision of Spellings and Numeracy for Friday</b><br><b>Assessments</b>                                                                                  |
| <b>Other on-going activities</b> | <b>Reading and responding to novels</b><br><b>ICT Based research/re-drafting/word processing</b><br><b>Planning and preparation for presentations and class assemblies</b><br><b>Religion/PDMU tasks</b> |

## **Recommended Time Allocation For Homework Tasks**

Homework is linked to class work and to the Northern Ireland Curriculum. While predominantly linked to literacy and numeracy, tasks set will not necessarily be written. Homework should never be too onerous, nor should it ever create stress. If a child is stressed in relation to homework, you should contact the class teacher without delay.

Homework may be set over several days or daily depending on the type of task. Pupils and parents will be made aware of homework schedules by teachers. Homework will not be set over a weekend or half term holiday, the only exception being where a long-term project or activity is being completed and pupils may choose to use time at a weekend for this purpose.

The following guidelines show the recommended time which should be given to homework at each key stage:

- Foundation Stage (P.1/P.2) 1 hour **per week**
- Key Stage One (P.3/P.4) 2 hours **per week**
- Key Stage Two (P.5 - P.7) 45 mins - 1 hour **per day**

If pupils are struggling to complete homework within these approximate guidelines, parents should not hesitate to contact the school.

## **The Role of the Parent/Carer**

Parents can support their child's learning by monitoring homework and providing guidance and encouragement. Pupils are likely to get more out of an activity if parents are involved. It is expected that up to and including

P.4, parents will work with and support children doing homework. From P.5 onwards pupils will increasingly be expected to do their homework on their own. This will help them to become independent learners. Teachers will inform parents if pupils regularly fail to complete their homework. Homework is marked according to the school's Marking Policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised.

### **Reading Records - Important Information**

Whether the task is independent or supported, parents are asked to sign their child's Reading Record daily to acknowledge that their child has completed the tasks set. The Reading Record can also be used as a means of communication between school and home. Teachers can highlight areas of learning and parents can note achievements or concerns.

### **Absence**

If children are absent due to general illness work will not be sent home. We would assume that the child is too ill to work. There may be exceptions to this if a child is at home for an extended period.

Extra work will not be set when parents choose to take holidays in term time.

### **The Role of the Child**

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework each week.
- To make sure they understand the tasks set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand homework in/upload it on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.

### **The Role of the Class Teacher**

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and to give guidance on how they might assist their child. This may be done through written communication, at a parent's meeting or information session.
- To ensure that all pupils understand the homework they have been given.
- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To mark homework and give feedback to pupils.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

### **The Role of the Principal/Senior Management Team**

- To consult with parents and pupils on setting out and reviewing the school's homework policy.
- Monitor the implementation of the policy.
- Inform new parents of the Homework Policy.
- Review the policy at regular intervals

### **The Role of the Board of Governors**

- Review the policy.
- Ratify the policy.
- Monitor the policy.

