

A St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School Policy



HOMework POLICY

Reviewed by Pupil & Curriculum Committee:	Spring 2015
Ratified by Full Governing Body:	Spring 2015
To be reviewed:	Spring 2017

Rationale

At St Michael's CE Junior School we are committed to helping children develop skills to become life-long learners. One of the important skills involved in achieving this is the ability for children to become self-directed, autonomous learners.

Home Learning is one strategy to help children practise this skill whilst continuing to develop and deepen their knowledge and understanding.

It is not our desire for home learning to be a cause for anxiety but rather motivational, with the potential to positively impact children's learning and raise attainment levels. As a result, home learning tasks support normal classroom work or are tasks given in preparation for a classroom task or for Year 6's, the preparation of SATS.

Following on from our parents meeting in September, the following has been agreed by staff:-

Approach

Our focuses for home learning are as follows:

- A set proforma is used across the school to communicate homework.
- The homework will be set on Thursday each week and due in on the following Wednesday.
- A minimum time expectation is 30 minutes for Year 3, 40 minutes for Year 4, 50 minutes for Year 5 and 60 minutes for Year 6 per week.
- A homework book will be provided for all homework.
- Year 6 will have a homework planner to aid their transition to secondary school.
- All homework handed in by Wednesday will be awarded 3 house points and extra points may be awarded for exceptional effort.
- Fast Facts **or** a maths activity will be set each week. There will be greater communication regards the Fast Facts activity and often a sheet will be provided. A literacy or topic based activity may also be provided each week and will be based on work already taught that week. There will be flexibility in this. As you can see from the time allocations, there will be a greater amount of homework set in the upper school to the lower school. This is in preparation for the children's transition to secondary school.
- There will be no big homework projects!

We expect all children to read at home to develop their decoding and comprehension skills. It is also widely recognised that from reading, children develop many of the language skills required for writing. We recommend a minimum of 20 minutes reading 4-5 times per week. We hope that from this activity, children enjoy a love of reading including reading for pleasure.

Other

From time to time, particularly in the Upper School, other tasks will be given for children to complete as home learning activities. Such activities may be in preparation and in support of learning to be done in class (e.g. research or planning) or stand- alone tasks. For Year 6 children, practice papers and revision materials for the SAT tests will be issued.

Support

We value the support of parents and recognise the benefit to children of parents, teachers and pupils working together. We provide guidance and help for parents to help them support their children's learning. For children, clear guidance and support will be given from the class teacher. A lunchtime learning club is also run on a Monday and Tuesday, where children can receive further help and support and access resources including ICT.