

ST AMBROSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



POLICY ON HOMEWORK

SPRING 2022

Reviewed: July 2023

This policy has been written in consultation with staff and governors of St. Ambrose Preparatory School and with due regard to the school's mission statement:

At St Ambrose we aim to provide an independent Catholic education for boys and girls of all faiths aged 3 to 11; St Ambrose is an inclusive school where the Gospel teachings and our school values are at the centre of everything that happens in our school family. At St Ambrose we strive to develop happy, fulfilled, well educated, confident and caring children who know and understand the love, joy and peace of Jesus; and to show our Faith by the way we live, showing care and consideration for each other, those around us and the environment.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be an exemplar Edmund Rice School, with an enviable reputation amongst our peers, both as an organisation and for the services and facilities we provide, making us first choice for parents and pupils in our geographic area.

Our Ethos & Values

At St Ambrose we provide a Catholic school community in which pupils feel welcome, safe, recognised for their individuality – supported by a community of love, and affection. We strive to live the Gospel in all aspects of school life and policy, following Blessed Edmund's footsteps.

Homework Policy (Incl. EYFS, KS1 & KS2)

(Staff are notified of regular ISI updates)

The Governing Body of St. Ambrose Prep School understands its regulatory responsibilities and will maintain an effective oversight of this policy, by evaluating its effectiveness, and reviewing and implementing change.

1 Introduction

- 1.1** Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day, which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

- 2.1** Homework is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. The DfE in 2012 made clear its commitment to homework stating "Homework is part and parcel of a good education". We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. Indeed, we see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners. We believe that homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.
- 2.2** Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

4 Types of homework

4.1 We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. We give guidance information to parents to help them achieve the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. In the Foundation Stage we also provide maths homework at the end of each week to help consolidate their learning. Spellings are given each week. We also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings or mathematical tables as part of their homework. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, and occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it. When we ask children to study a topic or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use the class and local library.

4.2 At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined in paragraph 4.1 but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set literacy and Maths homework routinely each week and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce learning done in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

4.3 Outline of typical homework activities

Nursery

Autumn term – send a library book home to share

Spring term – send home Maths sheet relating to current objective

Reception

From Autumn term – Reading daily

Send home a Maths sheet relating to current objective on a Friday

Tricky words flashcards

Spellings – Christmas time (depending on children level)

Infant 1

From Autumn term – reading daily, 10 spellings tested weekly

Spring term – Maths – Schofield and Sims

English –worksheet– mixture of phonics, grammar and
comprehension

** Additional topic homework sent when appropriate**

Infant 2

MONDAY		
TUESDAY	English bond	Verbal (in Summer term)
WEDNESDAY		
THURSDAY	Mental arithmetic (s+s)	Bond (rotate each half term)
FRIDAY		
SPELLINGS	TESTED ON A FRIDAY	
READING	EVERY NIGHT (APPROX 20 MINS)	
TIMES TABLES	TESTED IN THE SUMMER TERM	

** Spelling log book used in Infant 2 **

Prep 1

30 MINS HOMEWORK PER NIGHT PLUS READING

MONDAY	Spellings sent out (learn and complete 5 sentences)	Timetables Verbal Practise
TUESDAY	Maths Bond	
WEDNESDAY	English bond (usually)	
THURSDAY	Maths – s+s OR Mathletics	
FRIDAY	Topic based homework	
SPELLINGS	TESTED ON A FRIDAY	
READING	EVERY NIGHT (APPROX 30 MINS)	
TIMES TABLES	TESTED ON A FRIDAY	

Prep 2

40 MINS HOMEWORK PER NIGHT PLUS READING (approx... 10 pages per night)

MONDAY	Spellings sent out + complete 10 spelling sentences	Timetables to learn for test
TUESDAY	Maths w/s OR bond	
WEDNESDAY	English w/s	
THURSDAY	Maths w/s	
FRIDAY	Topic based homework	
SPELLINGS	TESTED ON A MONDAY	
READING	EVERY NIGHT (APPROX 10 PAGES)	
TIMES TABLES	TESTED ON A THURSDAY	

Prep 3

60 MINS HOMEWORK PER NIGHT PLUS READING (approx. 20 MINS per night)

MONDAY	Maths w/s (relating to current objective)
TUESDAY	Bond Maths (also completed in class)
WEDNESDAY	Bond English +Grammar
THURSDAY	Bond VR
FRIDAY	Spellings to learn plus vocab sentences (15), Foundation subject homework too when applicable
SPELLINGS	TESTED ON A FRIDAY
READING	EVERY NIGHT (APPROX 20 MINS)
TIMES TABLES	TESTED ON A MONDAY

Prep 4

60 MINS HOMEWORK PER NIGHT PLUS READING (approx. 20 MINS per night)

MONDAY	Spellings and English w/s
TUESDAY	Maths w/s or Bond
WEDNESDAY	English – Grammar or Bond
THURSDAY	Maths w/s
FRIDAY	Foundation subject
SPELLINGS	TESTED ON A FRIDAY
READING	EVERY NIGHT (APPROX 20 MINS)

5 Amount of homework

5.1 We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school. We expect children in Reception (only when the teacher says they are ready) to spend approximately 30 minutes per week plus reading with a parent. Key Stage 1 children are to spend approximately one hour a week doing homework, although this may well include reading with a parent. We expect children to spend approximately the following amounts of time completing homework per evening, plus reading:

Prep. 1: 30 minutes, Prep. 2: 45 minutes, and Prep. 3/4: 1hr.

5.2 We give all the children a school diary and a reading record book in which they record the homework, and parents and teachers make any relevant comments.

6 Pupils with special educational needs

6.1 We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child.

7 The role of parents

7.1 Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to

complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, encouraging guided exploration of the internet on topics/subjects being covered in class and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

7.2 We ask parents to check the home/school diary every day and to sign it and the child's written homework as requested.

7.3 If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Headteacher.

8 Monitoring and review

8.1 It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues.

Our governing body may, at any time, request from our Headteacher a report on the way homework is organised in our school.