



ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Homework Policy

"Well organised homework can play a vital role in raising standards of achievement." *DfES Standards Website*

This policy is based on government guidelines which emphasise the importance of homework and how it helps your child to learn, rather than focus on if it takes a certain amount of time. However, the guidelines do also say how much time pupils might reasonably be expected to spend on homework. While most parents do appreciate the value and importance of this homework, a few feel that we do not set enough homework and others feel that there is too much! The amount and type of homework we set is at a level which most people feel is reasonable and is in line with Department of Education guidelines.

Why is homework important?

- It raises your children's achievement
- It consolidates and extends the work they have done in school
- It helps to inform you about your children's school work and allows and gives you the opportunity to support this work
- It is a valuable life skill and develops good work habits for secondary school and future employment.

What sort of activities should children be doing?

Our homework activities are related to the work your children are doing at school but will not always be written work.

For young children it will usually be:

- Reading with parents or carers
- Games or activities to practice phonics, literacy, maths or other skills
- Learning spellings or times tables

For older children, homework may also include:

- Reading
- Extending learning on their topic through research (the links are on the curriculum maps sent home to parents and posted on the school website)
- Finding out information
- Designing or making something
- Trying out a simple scientific experiment
- Solving problems
- Completing literacy, maths or other work

- Learning spellings or times tables

How much homework should my child be doing?

This varies with different year groups but the following is a guide

- Year 1 and 2: 1 hour per week
- Year 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week
- Year 5 and 6: 30 minutes per day

How do I know my child has homework and what it is?

- Your child will have homework given to them on a worksheet on a Friday if they are in a Junior class (Yr 3, 4, 5, 6). They will be asked to return this on a Wednesday.
- Your child will have homework given to them on a worksheet on a Wednesday if they are in an Infant class (Yr 1 and 2) and this is expected at school on a Tuesday.

Feedback on your child's homework

The children need to know how well they have done and what they could do better. Sometimes work will be discussed in lessons, or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work. If a child has difficulties with a piece of homework, they should discuss it with their teacher or you might wish to discuss the problem with us yourself.

Should I help my child with homework?

Homework allows you to see what your children are doing and to support their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education.

We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved - as long as they do not take over too much!

If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher. They will be pleased to see you and will help you to get the balance right.

12 things you can do to help your child learn

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
You have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is
 - a. *vital to learning.*
 - b. *Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "you're clever".*
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.
Try to hear your child read, read to your child, or encourage them to read to themselves, for at least 20 minutes a day.
3. Encourage your child to observe and talk about what they see, feel, think etc.
Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.
4. Make use of your local library.
Look out for special events and services for children.
5. If your child likes watching television, watch it together sometimes and talk about what has been watched. Children enjoy sharing their experiences and will gain a lot from the discussion.
6. Try to provide a reasonably quiet and suitable place where your child can work and show that you and all members of the family value and respect the homework activity.

7. Try to set time aside to support your child's homework activities whilst also allowing some independence where appropriate.
8. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers.
9. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework.
10. Help your child to see the importance of homework and teach them to become more independent and take more responsibility for themselves as they get older.
11. Make sure that your child presents their homework neatly and that it shows pride in the learning that they have undertaken.
12. Remind your children to complete and hand in homework on time. A copy of your child's homework programme will be provided at the start of each year but please ask if you need another one.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We want your children to succeed.