

St. Margaret's C.E. Primary School



Homework Policy

*School and home working together.*

*Updated: Nov 2011*

# Homework Policy

## *A Learning Partnership*

### ***Aims***

- ✦ To develop an effective partnership between the school and home, actively involving parents in their child's learning.
- ✦ Ensure consistency of approach throughout school.
- ✦ Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together and enjoy learning experiences.
- ✦ To encourage children to develop independent study skills.
- ✦ To support school development and to raise pupils achievement.
- ✦ To practise life-long learning skills.

### **Recommended Time Allocation for Homework**

**Years 1 and 2 – 1 hr a week**

**Years 3 and 4 – 1 hr 30 mins a week**

**Years 5 and 6 – 30 minutes a day.**

These times are recommended by the Government as a guide. The precise amount of time spent on homework is much less important than the quality of tasks set and the way they are planned to support learning.

*'A good well-managed homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.'*

*(DfES Homework Guidance Document)*



## Homework Activities

At St. Margaret's C.E. Primary School we provide a brain book of weekly tasks linked to the age of the child. The main focus for these tasks will be Literacy, Numeracy and topic. As children progress through school the tasks set will encourage more independence in study. Each year we will have a homework focus that supports our whole school development, *for example, all children in each class might have homework tasks focusing on handwriting and letter formation as a means for improving handwriting throughout school.*

**To ensure homework is regular, manageable and parents know when it is set; teachers identify the regular day and expected deadlines in the curriculum letter at the start of each term.**

## Reading

We ask all children to read each night as we believe that children who regularly read to and with parents/carers benefit by gaining in confidence and fluency as readers.

We have purchased the **'Reading Bug'** programme for all our children to help promote independent reading at home via the internet. Children are set 'story sacks' and tasks to work through by the teacher. All at the right level for your child.

We ask parents to record pages that have been read at home in the reading journal and make a comment in the space provided. We encourage parents to share books with their children as often as possible.

### Foundation Stage

The emphasis will be on developing a love of books, phonics and learning numbers. Children will also be set simple number work linked to our **Ice-cream challenge** and home tasks to learn everyday skills e.g. how to tie their laces.

### Key Stage 1

The emphasis will still be on reading (about 10 mins. per night is sufficient) and number skills linked to our **Ice-cream challenge** and **Mathletics tasks set by the teacher**. Children will be given short activities – simple games or spellings of key words through **Spellodrome**, number facts and 2, 5, 10 times tables to learn.

These activities provide young children with the opportunity to talk about what they are learning to an interested adult and practise key skills.

For topic they may be asked to create some art work or an ideas/scrapbook page to demonstrate everything they have learnt during a topic e.g. "My Family".

## Key Stage 2

Keep reading! Reading for between 15 - 20 mins per a night (as a guide), in upper KS2 children will be developing independent reading and parents may not need to read with their child but are asked to discuss with the child what they are reading. Children may be asked to write a book review, complete research for a subject or practise a test style paper. Spellings will be set through *Spellodrome*. Children will be asked to learn times tables to 10 x 10 (again linked to our *Ice-cream challenge* and *Mathletics*), solve number problems and occasionally complete topic work demonstrating all they have learnt in the form of a scrapbook.

## Home Projects

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities and want to encourage parents to join in their child's learning, therefore we will be setting one homework project per term that designed to extend and enhance the curriculum taught in school. The following list gives just a few examples:

- ✦ a family visit to a local museum;
- ✦ playing games which develop their physical skills;
- ✦ learning to ride a bicycle safely;
- ✦ research at a local library and/or using the internet (school cannot be held responsible for the content of web sites not recommended by teachers);
- ✦ cooking, gardening, completing a science investigation;
- ✦ designing, constructing and model making.

These projects are celebrated in achievement assembly and displayed.