

Leyland St. James Church of England School



A Christian family where all are valued, children achieve, and the future begins

Our mission is to serve the community through serving our children. Every child is welcomed regardless of need for 'who so ever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me' (Matthew 18.5). Everyone is valued; everyone has worth. We ensure that every child develops within God's love.

HOMEWORK POLICY

AIMS OF POLICY

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework at St James'.
- To identify our shared views of good practice.
- To establish how homework will be organised and how we ensure progression across the school.
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.
- To make clear the ways in which we aim to ensure that the policy makes an important contribution to the quality of teaching and learning in the school.

DEFINITION

At St James' we view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning.

PURPOSE

The purpose of homework at St James' is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. It enables children to practise and consolidate skills and aims to broaden the context of learning and provide enrichment and extension. Finally, it aims to enable children to take responsibility for their own learning, to become independent learners and to develop perseverance.

GOOD PRACTICE At St James'; we believe that the following principles underlie good practice.

- That staff, parents and governors are involved in developing the policy and that it is a process which takes place over time and results in the completion of a written guidance document.
- The policy is coordinated by a member of the leadership team.
- A variety of approaches are used to ensure that parents and children are aware of homework expectations and organisation. These can include meetings, booklets etc.
- Homework allocations are made clear.
- Homework is set in a structured way to help children develop regular study patterns (with parental help if needed).
- There is regular feedback and praise for completed work and a system in place for responding to children who fail to complete.
- The reasons why homework has not been completed are investigated before action is taken.
- In planning homework, teachers set clear learning intentions and tasks are appropriate.
- There is a clear system for monitoring how the policy requirements are being fulfilled.
- The policy is reviewed regularly.

RANGE OF ACTIVITIES

- A variety of tasks are used to meet planned learning objectives. These can include:
- Speaking and listening activities
- Reading
- Spelling and word investigations
- Book reviews
- Reading comprehension
- Independent research
- Practical maths investigations
- Collecting items linked to a theme
- Skills practice across a range of areas
- Data collection
- Educational games

ORGANISATION

The school runs a weekly lunchtime homework club, which children can attend as an alternative to completing homework at home.

Progression is planned from Reception to Key Stage Two through the provision of appropriate activities and the increasing expectations we have of our children as they move up through the school.

RECEPTION

- Topic based homework will be set once every half term.
- Homework to be recorded in home learning challenge books
- Encourage children to read daily at home.
- Throughout the year, phonics groups will be provided with differentiated phonics homework.

YEAR 1

- Topic based homework will be set half termly in the autumn term (with ideas to support Maths and English)
- Weekly differentiated English/Maths homework will be set in the spring and summer terms (Maths and English alternate weeks)
- Homework to be recorded in homework books
- Encourage children to read daily at home.
- Daily practise of multiplication facts (times tables)
- Children will be provided with differentiated weekly spellings for test the following week

YEAR 2

- Weekly differentiated English and Maths homework
- Encourage children to read daily at home.
- Daily practise of multiplication facts (times tables)
- Children will be provided with differentiated weekly spellings for test the following week 3

YEAR 3/4/5

- Weekly differentiated English and Maths homework
- Encourage children to read daily at home.
- Daily practise of multiplication facts (times tables)
- Class teachers can set additional homework (science/topic/etc) if they feel it would be necessary.

YEAR 6

- Provide differentiated weekly spellings for test the following week
- Set weekly differentiated Maths homework
- Set weekly differentiated GPS homework
- Set weekly differentiated arithmetic homework
- Encourage children to read daily at home
- Daily practise of multiplication facts (times tables)
- After SATs, homework will be relaxed and other opportunities to learn outside of school hours will be provided.
- Class teachers can set additional homework (science/topic/etc) if they feel it would be necessary.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CLASS TEACHERS will plan purposeful activities with clear learning intentions, which are

linked to the curriculum content. They will respond to children's efforts, providing encouragement and will investigate the reasons for homework not being completed before responding with sanctions.

PARENTS have an important role in supporting children's efforts. They need to be aware of what homework is set and provide both encouragement and an appropriate environment for its completion.

CHILDREN are responsible for completing tasks as requested (with increasing independence as they move through the school) and to take responsibility for organising any information or equipment they require.

RESPONDING TO CHILDREN AND ENSURING THAT HOMEWORK IS COMPLETED

In YR/1, children are rewarded with frequent encouragement and praise. Good examples of completed tasks are shared with the class. Records are kept of work completed and if appropriate, children are given further opportunity to complete work in school time with TA/teacher support. If there are problems completing activities, teachers will discuss with parents.

In Year 2 and KS2, children who complete their homework are praised in class and there is regular encouragement. Those who fail to complete work on time are given an opportunity to hand it in the following day. If homework is not completed, children will be asked to carry out the activity at our lunchtime homework club.

Parents are informed if a child regularly fails to complete homework.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Class teachers will ensure that tasks are set which are appropriate to meet the needs of all children, including those with special educational needs as well as those requiring further challenge. Children with complex backgrounds will complete aspects of homework as and when decided on by the SENCo and specialist teachers.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In order to ensure that the policy directly contributes to the quality of teaching and learning the provision of homework will be regularly monitored. Samples of homework will be reviewed as part of the SLT monitoring and evaluation schedule. In addition, the scrutiny of homework samples will form part of curriculum leader's monitoring responsibilities at the allocated phase of the School Improvement Plan. Parents will also be given opportunities to share their views with teachers at parent consultations and other occasions.