

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

HOMework POLICY

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Through Jesus, we learn, love and grow together

INTRODUCTION

The staff of St. Aloysius' Junior School believes that homework can effectively extend the time that children spend on learning, providing them with opportunities to reach higher levels of attainment and make greater progress. It also can enhance and extend children's learning, particularly by developing their study skills and independence. Homework can support the attitude that learning is not confined to the classroom but that it is an open-ended and life-long activity. In our experience it helps to improve the links between home and school, providing parents with opportunities both to support their children as they learn and become more closely involved in that process. Achievement is likely to be greatest when there is a whole school consistent approach to homework. Therefore we give homework to support and extend the work done in class. Additional homework, we believe, must be appropriate to the age and ability of the children. Parents are constantly encouraged to be actively involved in their children's learning. Most of our parents are happy to support this aim, as they associate homework with the high expectations we have of their children in school and in turn, our appreciation of parents' involvement in helping us meet those expectations. Parents frequently say that it also prepares them for the sort of discipline they will need at secondary school.

Homework is set 3 nights a week across the whole school.

Monday- English homework (this could be comprehension, grammar, spelling, punctuation or writing)

Wednesday- Mathematics

Friday- another curriculum area, topic or whole school homework

RESPONSIBILITIES

Senior Leadership Team- To ensure homework is being set to an appropriate level and according to the policy.

Teachers- To set homework according to the school policy and the needs of each child and monitor the standard of homework completed by pupils.

Parents- To support their child with homework tasks, read with them and sign their reading diary and practise the child's Key Maths facts with them.

Children- To complete homework tasks to the best of their ability and bring these to school on the correct day. To look after their homework book, reading book, reading diary and Key Maths Card and bring these to school every day. To read and practise their Key Maths each night.

We instill in the children that completed homework is their responsibility. As the children mature and become more able the quantity and the frequency is increased eg. in preparation for Key Stage 2 SATs. By the end of their time at St. Aloysius' Juniors we hope that the children will have experienced a level of demand and challenge which will have prepared them for secondary education.

READING

- We provide reading books for the child to share with an adult and a reading diary.
- In Year 3 and Year 4 parents should listen to their child read every night for at least 20 minutes and record any concerns or progress when they sign the child's reading diary.
- In Year 5 and Year 6 the children should read every night for at least 30 minutes with parents signing their reading diary every night to confirm the child has read and listening to them at least once a week.

Reading is a fundamental life skill and great importance is placed on this with regard to reading at home daily. It is the expectation that every child should read every night and in order to provide an incentive for doing this, the school organises special reading rewards- the Reading Raffle and the Reading Challenge.

READING RAFFLE

Any child who has read and had their reading diary signed every night of the week goes into a raffle on Friday. During assembly one name is chosen at random from the entries to receive a book of their choice.

READING CHALLENGE

Each class has a reading challenge display where the children's names are displayed according to their guided reading group. Every time a child finishes a book at home, they complete a book review in school for the reading challenge display, then their name moves up one place on the chart. At the end of each half term the child from each guided reading group who has read the most books/ pages gets a special reading badge and certificate to take home.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics homework is set every Wednesday and can alternate between written homework and using ICT.

Written or practical work related to the current maths unit (eg worksheets, extension activities, investigations).

Activities are set on Mathletics (www.mathletics.co.uk- a personalised Virtual Learning Environment).

In addition, all children have a Key Maths card which lists the facts they need to know by the end of the academic year related to times tables, number bonds and place value. Children should practice their Key Maths for 10 minutes every night with an adult.

OTHER AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM

We ask the children to:

- Carry out cross curricula projects over the holidays or sustained periods of time.
- Find something to extend learning or to prepare for the next session.
- Search public libraries and databases for information.

TEACHER RECORD

Teachers monitor:

- Whether it was returned or completed and administer consequences for those that do not.

SUMMARY

If homework is consistently not completed teachers will discuss this with the parents where appropriate.

The principle aim of homework is to get the children and parents involved with learning and ultimately that the child will become an independent, insightful learner who has positive, challenging and enjoyable experiences in learning and will realise that learning is a life long process.

MONITORING THE POLICY

The Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team will monitor the policy by regular reviews and observations.

The Head Teacher must publicise the policy and bring it to the attention of pupils, parents and staff at least once a year.

This policy was updated by Miss Tracey Shevlin the Deputy Headteacher

This policy was agreed in Summer Term 2013

Review and update by Summer Term 2016

Signed.....

Chair of SEND and Curriculum Committee

