

# HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*“Together as a family, we love, learn and grow in  
the presence of God”*



## HOMEWORK POLICY

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### **Why give Homework?**

At Holy Rosary we believe that homework can encourage independent learning. It gives children the opportunity to practise skills learned in the classroom and encourages initiative and self-discipline. It can enable children to make use of information and resources not always available in the classroom and free teachers to concentrate on those activities requiring their presence. It also serves to give parents a far greater insight and involvement in their children's learning.

### **What homework will the child receive?**

The nature, type and length of homework will vary according to age, needs and pace of development of the children.

### **Reception/Key Stage 1**

Children will receive a school reading book and are expected to read it at home to an adult.

Home reading diaries will be used to communicate with parents, who are to be encouraged to comment on their child's response to the books they read. Parents should be encouraged to take every opportunity to talk about the child's topic and learning experiences as this serves to reinforce and support the child's work at school.

Children will be asked to collect artefacts and information related to class topics.

At Key Stage 1 weekly spellings will be introduced.

English and maths homework will be given as required.

### **Key Stage 2**

In Year 3, 4 and 5 children will continue to bring home school reading books to read and be asked to collect information and research related to class topics.

Maths, English, spellings and tables will be given weekly.

Children will undertake one project per year.

In Year 6, homework will be given three times a week. This will be mainly English, Maths and Science

Spellings, spelling sheets and tables will be given weekly.

Year 6 pupils will undertake 2 projects per year.

There may be occasions when a teacher will want a child to do some work at home, eg finish or extend work started in class or when a child is having difficulty with a particular piece of work and needs some extra reinforcement and support. Also, in the lead up to SAT's Year 6 pupils are given more homework.

Homework should not be given as a specific punishment or sanction for unacceptable behaviour.

The amount of time spent on homework should gradually increase as children develop and pass through the school and will vary between individual pupils. As a guide we expect:-

- 10 minutes quality time spent at KS1 with an adult.

- 15-20 minutes in Years 3 and 4
- 30 minutes in Years 5 and 6

Children are expected to complete given tasks. If circumstances prevent this, a letter from the parent will excuse the child. The task may be set for another evening.

If a child does not do their homework on a regular basis, a letter will be sent to parents (see standard letter).

### **Guidance for Parents - How can you help?**

We ask for your support in seeking that homework is done conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. A quiet room with a suitable working surface for written work is ideal for many children, although we realise that this is not always possible. A time should be set aside for homework and it should be respected by all the family with disturbances kept to a minimum. It is a good idea to have all those of school age working together. It can be discouraging to be sent to a bedroom on your own to do homework whilst the rest of the family engage in a shared social activity.

Please remember that your children will need some time to get over the school day and others will need your company before they establish a routine for themselves. It is also important that children have time and opportunities for their own interests and play.

There are many ways in which you can help:-

- 1 You can test what has been learnt
- 2 Listen to your child read what he/she has written
- 3 Check presentation for neatness and accuracy
- 4 Direct your child to a suitable reference book or resource
- 5 If you see a mistake, tell them why and show them how to correct it
- 6 If your child is genuinely stuck then try to provide some guidance to help them arrive at the answer (do not feed them the answers)
- 7 Encourage your child to check that homework is understood before he/she comes home, this prevents unhappiness for everyone.
- 8 Do not allow your child to become distressed about the completion of a task, simply write a note explaining any problem to the class teacher.

**September 2016**

Dear .....

I am concerned that ..... is failing to hand in the regular homework that has been set for them.

As you know, the homework commitment is a very important one and is designed to support your child's learning.

I would be grateful if you could make sure that the homework is completed and returned to school.  
Homework is given on:-

.....  
.....

Thank you for your co-operation and support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Class Teacher

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Name of child: .....

I wish to confirm that I have received the letter regarding the homework commitment.

Signature of Parent/Guardian ..... Date .....

Dear .....

I am concerned that ..... is continuing to fail to hand in the regular homework that has been set for them.

As you know, the homework commitment is a very important one and is designed to support your child's learning.

Please make an appointment to see me so we can discuss this.

Thank you for your co-operation and support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Class Teacher