St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Shipley.



"Let your word teach and your actions speak.""

Homework Policy

“Let your words teach and your actions speak.”

“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth”. Your actions will speak much louder than any words you will ever say.

-John 1 3:18-

Our Mission is to educate children in the spirit of the Gospel values and the traditions of the Catholic Church, nurturing the talents and potential of everyone. By placing Christ at the Centre of all we do, we embrace our core Catholic virtues of gentleness, forgiveness, and honesty. We witness the ‘sacred grandeur’ in each individual, treat each other with dignity and we serve each other. It allows us to raise our children within our Catholic faith and raise the citizens of the future who respect and love the world we live in.

To fulfil the Church’s mission to evangelise and make Christ known to all, St. Anthony’s Catholic Primary School is committed to:

- providing an education with Christ at the Centre and a strong sense of Catholic identity meeting the spiritual needs of all;
- being a welcoming, compassionate community, where all are equally loved and valued for who they are;
- being an affirming, challenging educational community committed to the search for excellence for all;
- working together as a family community, and with the Diocese of Leeds, to ensure the best possible Catholic education for our young people;
- working in partnership with other local schools, education providers and stakeholders in order to enhance the quality of provision for all;
- living out the social teaching of the Church, and thereby promote community cohesion;
- contributing in joyful hope to the creation of a society which is highly educated, skilled, fundamentally loving and generous.

Introduction

Homework is anything that children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

Rationale for homework

Effective homework needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents and school which enables the child to extend school learning and acquire the skill of independent learning. Similarly, effective homework can foster the precious role of parents as educators and provide opportunities for the wider experiences available outside of the school. There is evidence that children who complete homework tend to be more successful than those that do not but that the quality and not the quantity of the homework is crucial. Teacher comments on work play a big part in maximising the positive effect of the homework on learning. Furthermore, it is proven that homework at Primary school prepares children better for the demands of Secondary school with parents having a huge and positive effect on developing good learning habits. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are:

• to develop an effective partnership between the school and parents and other carers in pursuing the aims of the school.

• to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding which underpins all learning, particularly in English and Maths and to allow children to practise skills taught and used in lessons

• to extend school learning, for example through additional reading; and to encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence, skills and self discipline needed to study on their own, and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

• to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;

• to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;

• to provide educational experiences not possible in school; • to help children develop good work habits for the future.

Types of Homework

At St. Anthony's, our homework strategy focuses primarily on the key areas of reading, spelling, learning of mathematical facts.

Reading is the skill which underpins all learning across the whole curriculum, not least leading to improvements in spelling and writing. Likewise, rehearsal of mathematical facts forms a strong foundation for calculation and reasoning. All these skills improve with practice, which in turn, develops confidence and interest. Therefore, children are expected to read extensively, and actively learn stated key maths knowledge at home.

Home reading should consist of a mixture of school reading scheme books, library books and children's own books (fact or fiction), but could also include magazines or recipes, for example. Similarly, there should be a mix of reading to an adult, independent reading and being read to by an adult, which helps to model intonation and aid comprehension.

All pupils from Years 1 to 6 receive spelling homework. At the start of each half term, children will be given an A4 sheet which details the spelling learning for that period. Every week children will be provided with either 1 of or both Maths and English Grammar worksheets to be completed for the following week. All work should be written in or glued into their Homework book, or provided digitally.

Homework will be provided weekly and are due in on the Thursday of the fourth week. Feedback will be given during the following week. Progress will be checked on in class during the period.

Pupils with special educational needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to their Individual Learning Plan.

The role of parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to support their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, reading to their child and listening to them reading. Parents are asked to ensure that all homework is completed. If parents have any problems or questions about homework they should contact their child's class teacher. School appreciates that on occasions children are unable to attend school for prolonged periods of time for medical reasons such as broken limbs etc. In this case parents are asked to approach school for advice on how to support learning at home.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy

Document Control	
DOC REF:	HW
Document Title:	Homework Policy
Version Number	Draft
Document stored in	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
Owned by	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
Authorised by	Local Academy Council
Date	October 2026
Review Date	October 2028
Circulation	All Staff and Volunteers Academy Council Governors On Website