



The mission of St Stephen's is to educate each child entrusted to our care to their full potential. We recognise the vital role which homework can play in raising standards of achievement for children in our school. The school policy for homework reflects the consensus of opinion of the governors and teaching staff. It has been drawn up as a result of staff and governor discussions and consultations with parents which took place in 2010. The policy has the full agreement of the Governing Body.

OUR AIM

- To aid each child's progress towards achieving his or her full potential with the assistance, support and cooperation of parents.
- By setting regular homework, on an increasing ratio, from Year 1 to Year 6, to adequately prepare children for the demands and responsibilities of secondary school.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide an enjoyable and purposeful supplement to class work.
- To provide opportunity for the child to practice what has been learnt in class, including the development of the basic skills e.g. reading, tables, spellings, independent research skills etc.
- To provide an opportunity for parents to become involved in the academic development of their child.
- To provide an opportunity for the child to begin to take responsibility for organising their own workload.

At St Stephen's we appreciate the value of extra curricular activities, (sport, music, dancing, drama, other hobbies, etc); and recognise the demands made on pupils, and in setting homework we allow space for these. To help raise attainment and for consistency throughout the school we have invested in a set of workbooks for Mathematics and Literacy.

The mathematics and literacy Workbooks have close links with the Primary National Strategies. This means both teachers and parents can be confident that children are being given practice in the key skills they need.

Workbooks have been designed to enable all children to succeed and gain in confidence: The Learning Exercises (Key Facts in Mathematics and World of Words in Literacy) give all pupils the chance to learn these in their own time at home and to test themselves.

The Practice Exercises are at three levels; A, B and C. Level A is a consolidation of work done in the previous year and helps children to be confident and ready for the work they will be doing this year. Level B is a good basic level and develops understanding of this year's work. Level C is more challenging and inspires children to move on to more advanced work. It is recommended that all children do level A and almost all try level B. Children are encouraged to try level C too, with help from parents or carers if needed.

The Thinking Tasks have been designed to be within the scope of the vast majority of pupils; particularly as these are done at home where children can take their time and get help where needed.

GUIDELINES

Homework is given purely to provide positive reinforcement of work done in school. It is seen as a definite need and not as a time filler. Homework is considered an integral part of the curriculum. It enriches and consolidates, develops and cultivates the mind to nurture the seeds of knowledge, therefore homework, when set, is compulsory.

For this discipline to be of value it is important that work be handed in on time. The average amount of time to be spent on homework each evening, including non-written tasks such as; reading, learning tables etc., should be approximately:

DCFS Guidelines

Reception - Year 2 - 10 - 20 minutes

Years 3 & 4 - 20 - 30 minutes

Year 5 - 30 - 40 minutes

Year 6 - 40 - 60 minutes

To avoid any confusion for the child and parents a standard approach will be adopted throughout the school. Generally, homework will be given out on Friday and handed in on a set day. The exception to this will be where the work sent home is class work that has to be finished because of a lack of application on the part of the child during the day.

Parents will be advised at the beginning of the school year of the homework expectations of the class teacher. They will also be given details of ways in which they may be asked to assist the child at home. A system for informing parents of homework that has been set and for providing feedback to them will be evolved during 2010/2011.

To be reviewed 2013