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| HOME LEARNING POLICY |

REVIEWED: 25th May 2022

NEXT REVIEW: Spring 2025

**Our Mission Statement**

To provide an environment that nurtures all towards the fullness of life that comes from God and a curriculum that expands our children’s horizons; a place where all can realize their potential – intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and emotional; and where our children are prepared to take their places as effective, caring and respectful global citizens.

**Our Ethos**

To value and appreciate everyone.

To try our best at everything.

**Saint Mary’s Catholic**

**Primary School**

**Swanage**

**In reviewing this policy and making decisions regarding home learning due consideration has been given to Equality Legislation.**

At St. Mary's School we expect our children to undertake home learning as an important way of supporting their progress at school. We ask that parents actively support this approach.

We believe that home learning should-

* Develop the partnership between home and school; between pupil, parent and teacher.
* Provide an opportunity for additional activities to reinforce and develop the child's understanding and learning.
* Provide opportunities for research and to stimulate independent learning.
* Encourage curiosity about the world around them and a thirst for knowledge.
* Be flexible in so far as the school recognises the benefits of children participating in a wide range of out of school activities.

The nature of the home learning will vary between year groups to take into account different ages and topics being studied. All year groups will follow a regular pattern. The amount of homework given is in line with current DfEE recommendations for Primary-aged children.

**Home activities will include:**

* **Reading**
* **Spellings**
* **Times-tables.**

**It might include:**

* **Number facts**
* **Online maths programmes**
* **Topic related research.**

One of the main focuses of home learning will be to encourage a lifelong love of reading, through: looking at books independently; sharing books with others; reading aloud and being read to.

Years 3,4, 5 and 6 use a reading record card to record their individual reading; this should be signed by an adult to show they have read at least 4 times a week. In reception and years 1 and 2 home reading is recorded in a reading record book; this should also be signed by an adult.

All times-tables facts should be secure by the end of Year 4 so frequent practice is very important from Year 2 onwards. Online maths programmes are used to reinforce known facts and increase fluency.

Parents are encouraged to promote neat presentation, correct spelling (particularly of high frequency words) and punctuation as much as possible when pupils choose to write at home.

In all year groups, as much of the curriculum as possible is covered through a topic based approach and parents can access their child’s particular topic web on the school website. The school encourages pupils to explore their topic learning independently at home and then share their findings at school.

**Children who do not complete their home learning at home will be expected to complete the relevant work in school during play or lunch times.**

**If a child or parent is unsure about any issues around home learning they should refer to the class teacher for advice.**