St Martin's CE (Aided) Primary School

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Homework Policy

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Policy produced/reviewed by: Headteacher in consultation with staff, parents and children

Ratified by the SAC committee of the governing body: 30.09.18

Signed:

Position:

Date of next review: July 2021

St Martin's CE (Aided) Primary School
Homework Policy

Our Aims

At St Martin's CE (Aided) Primary School we believe that homework should:

- provide a range of relevant learning experiences that challenge, stimulate and promote thinking and independence in learning;
- support children in developing a broad range of knowledge, skills and understanding;
- provide opportunities for children to practise skills and consolidate learning;
- provide opportunities for children to deepen their understanding;
- provide opportunities for children to prepare for future learning in the classroom;
- develop children's confidence in their ability to embrace new challenges and experiences;
- inspire and engage all children, promoting a positive attitude towards learning;
- enable children to be creative and to develop their own thinking skills;
- help children to respond positively to challenge and persevere in order to solve problems;
- develop the capacity of children to learn and work independently;
- prepare children for the transition between key stages and the next stage of their education;
- provide opportunities for children to share their learning with adults at home.

Expectations

All children are expected to complete homework activities unless there has been an agreement with the child's class teacher. We believe in the importance of relaxation and other extra-curricular activities such as sport and music to the holistic development of every child. However, these should be managed alongside the completion of regular homework. We understand that there may be some instances where homework is not completed due to an exceptional circumstance – please discuss this with your child's teacher.

At St Martin's CE (Aided) Primary School, we expect that all children will:

- **read on a regular basis**. Depending on the age and ability of the child, this could range from five minutes daily to an adult, through to thirty minutes independent reading twice a week;

- **practise spellings**. Depending on the age and ability of the child, this could range from five minutes daily learning high frequency word/common exception word spellings set by the teacher, through to spelling investigations into morphology (the study of words);

- **practise mental maths skills and times tables**. Depending on the age and ability of the child, this could range from practising counting to 10 correctly, to learning a times table and corresponding number facts.

In addition to this, every half term children will be provided with a homework grid which identifies a range of learning opportunities. These will include short activities that practise and consolidate English, maths and creative skills, related to the learning focus for that half term. Children should select one activity to complete each week, which should take them no longer than thirty minutes, and record the date that it has been completed in the space provided. Parents and carers are encouraged to feed back how their child has responded to the activity. Our expectation is that throughout the half term, children will complete at least two activities from each section, therefore covering a range of skills.

During the Spring and Summer term Year 6 may have additional English and maths tasks to complete each week in order to help them prepare for their end of year tests and transition to secondary school.

We recognise that at times, all children will find elements of their learning difficult and may benefit from additional consolidation of specific concepts. In these instances, the class teacher will talk to the parent or carer about ways that they can help support their child with this at home.

All children will be issued with a book to complete their homework tasks in. Teachers will mark each piece of homework in line with the Effective Feedback Policy.

Responsibilities

Staff are expected to:

- plan homework tasks that consolidate and extend learning in class;
- set homework during the first week of every half term and collect homework books each week to monitor completion;
- ensure children understand what is expected of them in their homework and know what to do if they need support with their homework;
- mark homework in line with the Effective Feedback Policy.

Parents are expected to:

- talk to their children about their homework tasks:
- ensure that their children have the time and equipment necessary to complete their homework;
- support their children with their homework as necessary, encouraging them to persevere and take a pride in their work;
- support their children in taking responsibility for ensuring homework is completed and handed in on time.

Children are expected to:

- take their homework book home on the day specified by the class teacher:
- look after their homework book and take a pride in the quality and presentation of their homework;
- complete their homework and hand it to their class teacher on time;
- ask their class teacher for help, before the homework is due in, if necessary;
- persevere with their homework and complete it to the best of their ability.