

ST ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

POLICY STATEMENT FOR HOMEWORK

Aims of Homework

1. To involve parents in their childrens' learning.
2. To facilitate parent/teacher cooperation.
3. To raise standards of attainment.
4. To facilitate the making of links between school life and the world outside.

Objectives

Homework should give pupils the opportunity to:

1. Practise and develop skills, especially in areas such as literacy (mainly reading) and numeracy (learn its from Big maths)
2. Develop independent study and investigative skills.
3. Begin to understand that they should be the prime agents in their learning.
4. Overlearn and apply the understanding and insights taught during lessons so that concepts acquired in class are consolidated and further embedded.
5. Relate ideas taught in school to situations outside.

Allocation of time: -

The time allocated at school will vary with age, ability, additional needs of children and with the demands of the curriculum in class at that time. However pupils of similar ages and abilities in adjacent classes should have broadly the same amount of homework both in terms of content and quantity.

With reference to DFE guidelines we have decided to adopt the following time allocations: -

Reception	45 minutes per week (literacy and numeracy activities)
Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week (reading, spelling & other literacy or numeracy work)
Years 3 and 4	1 hour 30 minutes per week (as per Years 1 & 2 with occasional assignments in other subjects).
Years 5 and 6	2 hours per week (as above but also ranging widely over the curriculum).

(All times are approximate and dependent on the children's abilities and needs).

Content

There should be clear emphasis on literacy and numeracy throughout but with a widening variety of other tasks being included. These tasks should

- have a clear focus
- give pupils plenty of opportunity to succeed
- be varied in format
- be manageable for teachers both to set out and to mark.

(finishing off activities will be given only if appropriate).

Special Educational Needs

Tasks will be set appropriate to the needs of individual pupils.

The Role of Parents

The government's view is that parents and carers should: -

- provide a suitable place in which pupils can do their homework
- make it clear that they value homework
- encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework
- above all, with younger children be actively involved in joint activities with children.

Our view is that children do not automatically develop study skills. These are developed over a considerable length of time and should involve a great deal of praise for achieving small steps forward.

Parents should have the opportunity to feed back to teachers on homework set and be able to enter into a dialogue especially where things are not going well.

Parent and teachers need to mutually support pupils to complete homework. However, pupils will not be set homework where parents do not support the homework policy.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils should be given access to a broad balanced curriculum but parents have the right to not support the school's homework policy. Our after school club – KIDZONE will provide opportunities for children to do their homework during the club time if they so desire. This is particularly relevant for the identified Pupil Premium children.

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April 17 : Review Annually