



Saint George's
Church of England School

Homework Policy

April 2024

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At Saint George's, our approach to Homework is one which is clearly linked to our vision, that all pupils should be supported to develop and flourish academically. Homework is designed to support pupils to revisit and retain curriculum knowledge where this is a key component of subjects, and review and apply skill development, where this is crucial to subjects. We also believe in an inclusive approach to homework through a recognition that it can be a challenge for some pupils, and therefore our provision, and our approach to supporting pupils who find homework difficult is central to this policy.

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education". -1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools

Research shows that homework is effective¹ when:

- It explicitly links to what is being covered during normal school time.
- It is routinely set
- Students complete 1-2 hours per day
- Students are provided with feedback

In the setting and completion of homework, all stakeholders have key responsibilities:

Pupils

Pupils are responsible for ensuring that they know what homework is set and when it is due. They are responsible for asking for help from the teacher (or a trusted adult) if they do not understand the work.

¹ https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework-secondary/?utm_source=site&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=site_search&search_term=homework



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Parents

Parents have a key role in communicating with pupils regarding their homework and encouraging them to complete homework. They also have a responsibility for raising any issues or questions regarding homework with the class teacher in the first instance.

Teachers

Teachers are responsible for setting homework in line with the policy, using public recognition to praise pupils who consistently complete homework and following up with pupils who do not complete homework, using support and/or sanction as appropriate.

Heads of Department / Subject Leader

Heads of Department are responsible for clearly setting a departmental vision for homework in line with the school policy, which is appropriate for the needs of their curriculum and supports pupils to develop and flourish. They are responsible for quality assuring the quality and setting of homework and supporting teachers where necessary.

As an all through school, we recognise that approaches to homework need to be adapted to the needs of pupils at different ages and stages.

At Saint George's Church of England Primary Phase we feel that children's home learning should be flexible and informal, therefore more able to fit in with busy family lives, whilst at the same time, developing parental links with school and their child's learning.

Our home learning will be as follows:



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EYFS

All pupils are expected to share their book with an adult at home daily – adults are advised to record reading in pupil's reading record books.

Weekly home learning ideas will be sent home linked to the current theme/topic of learning. Phonics and number recognition games will be sent home each term.

Key Stage One

Each term children will bring home a termly topic grid outlining all of the activities pupils will be taking part in for that term, as well as direct learning that will take place. There will be a section with home learning ideas linked to this topic/theme.

Families have the flexibility to select tasks and plan when and how they will do these. All the activities on the grid are optional and can be adapted to suit each child and their family.

We encourage families to support pupils to complete at least one task a week.

The pupils will have a homework book to record and share any work completed. Pupils will be praised for their home learning efforts and issued dojo points.

There will be practical and creative ideas too, which can be brought into school, shared with each other, and displayed in class.

- All pupils are expected to read at home daily – parents are expected to record reading in pupil's reading record books.
- Weekly spellings will be sent home for pupils to learn and children will be tested on these words each Friday.

Key Stage Two

Home learning builds on from Key Stage One, with lengthier pieces of home learning to complete. These will be sent home in the same form as Key Stage One, in a termly grid.

All pupils are expected to read at home daily – parents are expected to record reading in pupil's reading record books.

Pupils will be rewarded for their completed home learning with dojo points.

Weekly spellings will be sent home for pupils to learn and pupils will be tested on these words each Friday.



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At Saint George's Church of England Secondary Phase, we recognise the importance of further developing independence in our pupils through establishing homework routines which support them to develop knowledge retrieval and retention and deliberate practice through regular home learning.

Key Stage Three

At Key Stage 3, pupils are set between 30 mins and 1 hour of homework per week in the following subjects:

English / Maths / Science / Computer Science / MFL

Pupils are set between 30 mins and 1 hour of homework per fortnight in the following subjects:

Geography / History / RE

In order to support knowledge retention, homework will be an activity and /or revision for a low stakes test linking to a topic which the pupils have covered during the term / previous terms. This will allow pupils to routinely revisit the knowledge learnt through the curriculum. Feedback will take the form of gap analysis, with pupils and teachers revisiting topics (individually or as a class) where understanding has not been embedded.

In creative subjects where skill development is central, pupils will complete a longer term project homework which will complement the skill development mapped in lessons. These subjects are:

Art / Technology / Music / Drama / Dance



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Key Stage Four

At Key Stage 4, all subjects will set between 30 minutes and 1 hour per week of homework. The nature of this work will vary, dependent on subject and the feedback given to pupils will vary depending on the nature of the task.

Key Stage Five

At Key Stage 5, pupils are expected to complete 5 hours of independent study per subject, per week. The nature of this independent study will vary during the course but will include:

- Primary and wider reading
- Revision for assessments
- Written assignments
- Research
- Improving and redrafting work

Teachers/Subject Leaders are expected to provide regular guidance on how pupils can achieve this for their subjects and, where appropriate, set tasks to support / scaffold independent study.

Assignments for all classes will be uploaded on Microsoft TEAMS, including any resources or material required to complete the task.



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Intervention

Pupils may find homework a challenge for a variety of reasons. When a pupil is struggling to complete homework, the following will occur:

- Class teacher speaks to the pupil / parents or carers and establishes what the issue is. Class teacher offers additional support if required. If, following discussion with a pupil, a teacher feels that a pupil's non-completion of work was not as a result of issues around accessibility or understanding, that teacher may put in place an appropriate sanction for non-completion.
- Head of Department supports if no progress is made, using rewards and sanctions as appropriate (report / detention / homework club attendance)
- Raising Standards Leader supports if no progress is made, using rewards and sanctions as appropriate (report / detention / homework club attendance)

The school runs homework club in Rooms 3 & 8 Monday - Thursday until 4pm. Pupils are able to use IT facilities to complete homework under the supervision of staff. Homework club is open to all, although pupils may be directed to attend by their RSL as an intervention strategy, with attendance monitored.



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