



# Homework Policy

*December 2019*

*Review Date: December 2021*

**‘The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect them’.**

**Article 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.**



### **Rationale**

A good, well-managed homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Homework also supports the development of independent learning skills and provides parents with an opportunity to take part in their children's education.

### **Effective homework**

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular and appropriate homework is important as it gives pupils the opportunity to practice at home the tasks covered in class, and helps the pupils work towards improving important skills. It also helps children and young people to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school and in adult life.

### **Aims and purposes**

In general, the main aims and purposes are to:

- develop a home-school partnership
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- extend school learning.

### **Types of homework**

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning. Homework is marked according to the school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time. Due to time restrictions, homework handed in late may not be marked. We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

### **Early Years**

In the Early Years, Nursery children are provided with a weekly Home School Book. This gives parents an overview of weekly learning and a preview of the focus of learning for the following week. Parents are encouraged to contribute to the book with any feedback from home regarding their child's learning and achievements. In addition to this, Reception children receive a reading book weekly. To begin, this will be a picture book and parents are encouraged to discuss and talk about the story with their child. As they progress through Reception their reading books will reflect their phonic knowledge. As the children are taught a new sound in school, reading and writing tasks linked to the specific sound will be sent home. Later in the year, they will receive Common Exception Words (which are not phonetically decodable) to learn. Parents are encouraged to use the number cards sent home to play games and help their child develop their number recognition. In preparation for moving into Year 1, more extended writing tasks and maths specific tasks will be sent home weekly in the Summer Term.

### **Key Stage 1 (Years 1/2)**

Each week children will receive spellings and number tasks (number bonds and times tables). In addition, they will have one piece of English or Maths to complete. Sometimes, we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. For example, in a history topic, talking to older members of their family about an event or life in the past, visiting a library or using the Internet safely to find out facts about their learning.

### **Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6)**

At Key Stage 2, we set English and Maths homework routinely each week, and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through practice at home. We also set homework as a means of helping the children to revise for examinations, as well as to ensure that prior learning has been understood.

Each year group is designated one half term a year for project homework. This will be linked to an area of their learning (History, Geography, Science, Art, Design and Technology)

### **Inclusion and homework**

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings. We don't set homework during school holidays but encourage children to take part in activities we believe may encourage fun family activities. This may be going on a bike ride, baking a cake, finding signs of seasons or visiting a new place. We encourage families to take photos and send them to the school twitter page to show holiday homework. [@Stbenetouston](#)

### **The role of parents and carers**

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the head teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact one of our parent governors- Mr Martin Cottle and Mr Sam Elkington. Their contact details can be found on the school website or by contacting the school directly.

### **Use of Technology**

The use of technology and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

Some of the most important educational software that we use in school can be bought by parents or carers on a home-user licence or they can be downloaded. This includes Times Tables Rockstars and Lexia which are used regularly at school. Children are encouraged to use them at home and rewarded with certificates in school. This ensures that children are using age appropriate software in their work at home. The school will supply interested parents or carers with details.

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. This is done by the committee of the governing body that deals with curriculum issues.

Policy written and adopted by the governing body of St Benet's.

Signed: *C Canham* Deputy head teacher

Signed: *B Davison* Chair of Governors