



# St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School

## Homework Policy

*"I serve Jesus with my body, heart, mind and soul."*

*Serviam* means 'I serve'. Jesus Christ has taught us, 'it is more blessed to serve than to be served'.

At St Ethelbert's school, following our Catholic faith, we serve the whole person – mind, heart, body and soul.

Body – because we care for our wellbeing, our parish neighbourhood and our environment.

Heart – because we teach love and respect for all.

Mind – because we believe in excellent education.

Soul – because we learn to pray and become closer to God as his children.

### Learning At Home

Homework is an important way for children to make progress and consolidate their learning at school. An important aspect of children's work is their attitude. If they are keen, interested and take pride in their work, then whatever their ability, they will steadily improve. By working together we can support all aspects of learning and developing.

Through learning at home we aim to continue to develop the idea of a partnership between parents and teachers.

You can help your child at home with **Reading, Spelling, Number and Topic Work.**

### Key Stage One – Reception Class, Years 1 & 2

#### Reading

1. Choose a quiet time and place.
2. Read to your child.
3. Talk about the book, in particular the pictures.
4. Read the book together.
5. Let the child read the book to you (if they can).
6. If your child is given a list of familiar words from their class teacher, please help your child to learn them - by playing games etc.

**Remember - books can be read more than once – no matter what age or ability.**

Try to find an opportunity to listen to your child read.

Encourage your child to read a variety of reading materials.

#### Spelling

Year 1 will be sound of the week

Year 2 will be 10 spellings at appropriate level

Year 3 will be 15 spellings at appropriate level

Year 4 will be 15 spellings at appropriate level

Year 5 will be 15 spellings at appropriate level

Year 6 will be 15 spellings at appropriate level

### **Comprehension and Grammar**

Year 2 will be one sheet and spelling sentences

Year 3 will be comprehension card and spelling sentences

Year 4 will be comprehension card and spelling sentences

Year 5 will be comprehension card and spelling sentences

Year 6 will be comprehension card and spelling sentences

### **Number**

Reception and Year 1 - play counting games with children. Please play board games e.g. snakes and ladders, which involve children in counting forwards and counting back.

Year 2 will have one A4 sheet of maths work.

### **Year 2**

Additional work and workbooks will be offered to support the end of Key Stage Tests.

### **Topic Work**

Show you are interested in your child's class topic and help them to find information and objects.

Visit the library. Visit places of interest. Topics can cover Teeth and Eating, Egyptians, Ramsgate, Tudor Monarchs, India, Victorians, Ancient Greece, Countries, Winston Churchill, Mountains, 1960s/70s – Space, Animals, Famous People, etc. A topic will be in the last newsletter of each term to be done over the holidays.

There may be occasions when a teacher will ask a child to do some work at home e.g. finish work started in the classroom, or when a child is having difficulty with a particular piece of work and extra practice is required. This will be left to the teacher's discretion.

### **Key Stage Two – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6**

Throughout Key Stage Two children will continue to bring reading books home. Most of them will enjoy reading these to themselves. Encourage your children to tell you about the books they are reading.

Some children will still need support in hearing them read on a regular basis. Help them to practise their reading skills and build up their confidence.

As the children get older we increase the amount and variety of homework, which will be set throughout the week. This will vary from class to class depending on the curriculum planning and timetabling.

Children record their reading in Reading Record Books at KS1 and Home/School Communication Book at KS2. Please check these books weekly and help your child to keep a good routine.

We ask for your support by making sure that you check and sign your child's Reading Record at least each week.

Remember that some children may spend more time on homework because they enjoy it or because they cannot finish in the advised time or because they want to achieve high standards. Parents are encouraged to take an interest and help their child – but not do it for them!

### **Spelling**

Year 3 will be 15 spellings at appropriate level

Year 4 will be 15 spellings at appropriate level

Year 5 will be 15 spellings at appropriate level

Year 6 will be 15 spellings at appropriate level

### **Comprehension and Grammar**

Year 3 will be comprehension card and spelling sentences

Year 4 will be comprehension card and spelling sentences

Year 5 will be comprehension card and spelling sentences

Year 6 will be comprehension card and spelling sentences

### **Number**

All classes will have one A4 sheet of maths work. Sumdog Online Maths will be set up for all classes from Year 2 and there will be a homework club for those families that do not have online access.

### **Year 6**

Additional work and workbooks will be offered to support the end of Key Stage Tests.

Parents will be given homework for children to take on holiday with them during term. They will be given reading books and asked to make a scrapbook of the holiday. They will be asked to catch up on missed work on return.

Children suffering long term absences will be supported with a set programme of homework, which they are able to manage.

### **Marking**

Teachers are not expected to mark homework, but will collect in and monitor that homework has been done regularly. Lapses in homework will be reported to the parents / carers. All homework will be collected and put in a folder for parent access on parent meeting sessions.

### **Failure to complete set homework**

Firstly, the parent / carer will be called in to speak to the class teacher or there will be a note in the home communication book.

Secondly, the school FLO will ring parents to report a problem and discuss matters.

Thirdly and finally, the FLO will contact parents / carers to find out if parents can no longer support homework and homework club will be offered and all homework sent home will cease if it is a burden to the family.

### **Frequency**

The Parent Council have asked for a full week to allow all homework to be done as some parents will get it done at the weekend due to weekday clubs and other parents will do a little bit every night.

**Website**

Suitable sites and programmes will be put on the school website to support parents / carers.

**Communication**

Parents/carers are encouraged to quickly communicate with their class teacher should they wish more/ less / easier / harder homework or should have any problems with homework. Parents are reminded that an excess of homework can be as stressful and unproductive as too little homework. Good habits need to be built up and encouraged to support transition and success at secondary school.

**PESE (11+)**

Kent County Council schools are forbidden to practice or tutor for the eleven Public Examination to Secondary Education (PESE) exams. The nature, timings and content of these exams change and vary from year to year and are supposed to be tutor proof and only a measure of natural intelligence. Information is given to parents in Year 5 class and support materials can be recommended for parents / carers.

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