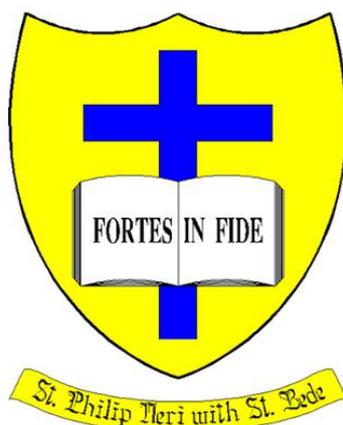


Diocese of Nottingham
...working in partnership with
The Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Trust

St Philip Neri with St Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy
Policy Document



Homework

Written by:	Approved by:	Approval Date:	Review Date:
D. Steele	LGB	September 2021	September 2023

ST. PHILIP NERI WITH ST. BEDE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

"We put Christ at the centre of our lives."

The whole school community aims to:

1. Follow Christ's example at all times and grow in love, awe and wonder of Him.
2. Make everyone aware that, through Christ, we take our own place in society acknowledging that our actions affect the lives of others.
3. Give everyone the opportunity to develop their full potential within an atmosphere of mutual respect.
4. Ensure that within a broad and balanced curriculum, everyone will be given the opportunity:
 - To develop enquiring minds, with the ability to question, argue and think rationally and independently;
 - Use number and language effectively;
 - Develop physical abilities and aesthetic appreciation;
 - Acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life, society and employment in a fast changing world.
5. Enrich the spiritual life of the individual through varied and meaningful liturgical acts of worship.

"This is what the Lord asks of you: only this that you act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)

Context

At St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Primary Academy, we believe that homework is an essential component in our home-school partnership. We recognise that children who have spent a busy, structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon. We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities such as dancing, sports, music etc. However, we recognise the benefits of homework if this is introduced gradually over the primary years so that children develop as independent learners.

The Purpose of Homework

Homework should:

- ensure that children make the best possible progress and grow as confident independent learners;
- help parents to keep in touch with their children's learning and promote an effective partnership between home and school;
- promote a positive attitude to learning;
- give children the opportunity to practice and reinforce skills that have been taught at school;
- extend learning by giving opportunities to apply skills taught in school;
- prepare children for the demands and expectations of future phases of education.

The Aims of the Policy

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- ensure the needs of individual pupils are taken into account;
- ensure pupils and parents know what to expect;
- extend and support the learning experience through reinforcement and revision;
- provide opportunities for parents and children to enjoy learning together.

Role of Pupils

Children are expected to:

- listen carefully to the instructions given so they know how to complete their homework;
- be responsible for taking their books and homework activities home and returning them on time;
- take care and show respect for books and equipment borrowed from school;
- complete work at home to the best of their ability;
- bring their reading book and homework diary to school every day.

Role of Parents

We recognise that parents have a key role on supporting pupils' homework. The nature of this role will change as children get older but an interested adult is always important. Parents can support our policy by:

- providing a suitable place for homework activities;
- provide basic resources e.g. pens, pencils, crayons, rulers, dictionaries, calculators;
- making it clear that they value homework and ensuring the books and equipment borrowed from school are treated with care;
- encouraging and praising children for their efforts;
- being actively involved in homework activities as appropriate;
- completing the reading diary/homework record as appropriate;
- not using homework as a threat or punishment;
- contacting the teacher if there are any concerns about homework.

Role of Teachers

The teacher will:

- set homework that is appropriate to the age and ability of each child;
- provide additional homework for pupils working on intervention strategies;
- give clear explanation of work to be completed at home;
- give a date for work to be returned;
- provide suitable guidance to parents where necessary;
- provide feedback to pupils - this may not always be through written comments;
- give recognition and praise to children for their efforts;
- alert parents to any problems with homework.

The Type of Homework

Learning at home does not just mean completing worksheets and formal written exercises carried out without help from an adult. All children need to participate in purposeful, joint activities and tasks with an interested parent. Talking together, playing games, reading together, learning facts, browsing the internet or visiting the library to find out about current topics are important.

Everyday activities in the home can also support learning e.g. weighing food for dinner, carrying out money transactions when shopping, reading words on food packaging, can reinforce Maths and English skills. It is particularly important that parents spend time speaking and listening to their children and provide a good role model. This promotes effective communication so that children interact appropriately by listening with concentration, choose language appropriate to the situation and use good manners.

As children get older, learning at home will gradually become more varied and demanding. Although the emphasis will still be on parents and children working together, there should be increasing opportunities for children to develop the skills of independent learning. Much homework will be based on Maths and English skills, often involving rote learning e.g. number facts, tables, spellings etc and regular reading sessions.

Homework will be sent home every week on **Friday** and should be returned to school by **Wednesday**.

Any Maths or English work set will reflect the work which has been taught in class that week.

The table below sets out the homework, which is typically given each week.

Class	Homework set
Foundation Stage 2	Reading Phonics Beginning to introduce short English and Maths tasks e.g. letter formation, practising calculations (mostly practical)
Year 1	Reading Spellings 1 short piece of English and Maths task (mostly practical)
Year 2	Reading Spellings 1 piece of Maths 1 piece of English
Year 3	Reading Spellings Mental Maths, typically linked to number bonds or times tables facts 1 piece of written English work 1 piece of Maths work (tasks will become slightly longer than in previous years)
Year 4	Reading Spellings Mental Maths, typically linked to number bonds or times tables facts 1 piece of written English work 1 piece of Maths work
Year 5	Reading Spellings Mental Maths, typically linked to number bonds or times tables facts 1 piece of written English work 1 piece of Maths work
Year 6	Reading Spellings Mental Maths, typically linked to number bonds or times tables facts 1 piece of written English work 1 piece of Maths work After Christmas, there may be increased homework linked to preparation for SATs

English and Maths homework tasks may be discussion tasks, practical activities, interviewing parents, finding shapes in the environment as well as written tasks and consolidation of Maths skills. At St. Philip Neri with St. Bede Catholic Voluntary Academy, we believe that more creative and practical tasks are of equal importance as more formal written tasks and encourage our children and parents to support this view.

Topic homework

Each half term, children will receive a Knowledge Organiser, which provides the opportunity for pupils to learn key facts about the topic being studied. At the end of a topic, a quiz will be conducted which will test how much knowledge the children have retained.