

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'.



HOMEWORK GUIDANCE

Approved by the Governing Body of Our Lady of Peace Primary School and Nursery

This guidance was implemented July 2017

Date implemented: June 2017 To be reviewed:

The school has a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Homework is an extension of work begun in school and is an important part of the learning programme of every pupil. It is also seen as training in self-motivation and discipline and is an opportunity for parents to take an interest in the work their child is doing.

The School's guidance is that homework should be set throughout the school, the nature of the work and the time it requires is to be determined by the school.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the role of homework in teaching and learning and to ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.

The Role of Homework

Learning at home is an important part of good education. Regular homework provides pupils with the opportunity to practise or consolidate learning that has taken place in school. It helps them to develop as confident and independent learners and encourages self-motivation and discipline.

The School, however, believes that it is important that children of primary school age should participate in and enjoy activities outside school, e.g. cubs, brownies, swimming, football etc. without the pressure of too much homework.

Homework can be set in many different forms and all have a clear purpose in supporting learning in the classroom.

Homework Guidance

Early Years and Foundation Stage:

Reception provide 2 types of homework:

Homework	Format
Daily Reading	From October, it is expected that one book takes three days to complete using the teaching strategies provided in parent workshops. Two books are handed out on a Monday.
Phonics	Phonics is given out on a Friday and is weekend homework, based on the sound(s) your child has been learning in the week. This can also be done daily, if you feel your child would benefit from further practice.

Reception also encourages parents to undertake the following as optional homework:

Homework	Format
ITalk	An optional talking homework is suggested in our weekly newsletter, which aims to develop your child's speech, language and communication skills.
Funky Fingers	As the children begin to learn letter formation, the work is sent home for you to see and continue practising.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2:

Formal Homework:

Each week the children will be set the following pieces of work for homework.

Homework	Format
Phonics (Year 1)	The children in Year 1 will undergo a phonics screening test. We would like parents to practise their children's phonic sounds on a weekly basis. Class teachers will recommend to parents suitable websites with resources to support this work at home.
Spellings	The children will be given no more than 8 words to learn each week appropriate for their ability and age range. The children are expected to learn the spellings for a test the following week. Children are also expected to put their spellings into a sentence to secure their understanding of the meaning of each word. Spellings will be set in a booklet with a half term worth of spellings set in advance (1 sheet per week).
Times tables	Times tables are used in many areas of the mathematics curriculum. It is important that children learn their times tables to ready themselves for learning in class. Times tables will be set each week by the class teacher and will be tested the following week.
Reading	Children are provided with a book from the school's reading scheme. Children are encouraged to read on a daily basis with an adult and take up to at least two days per book. Parents are encouraged to focus on comprehension as well as decoding.
Brain Builders	Children will be issued with a project once a half term that links closely with the topic that is currently being studied in school. Children are provided with a brain builders work book where they complete their projects. Children are encouraged to use only 2 pages per project and to be as creative as they can. They can include flaps, fold out pages, images, text etc within their projects.

Informal Homework:

The following is an **optional choice** made by parents. Parents who choose to undertake these pieces of homework do so by their own choice. The following homework will not be marked by staff members at the school.

Years 1 - 6

RE Homework

Each month the school chooses a value to focus on and these are discussed and explored in Collective Worship. The children are invited to create their own piece of work linked to the value of the month. Details are sent to parents via the school newsletter.

Year's 2 - 6

Mathematics and English Homework

To support children's learning in Mathematics and English the school has identified appropriate work books that parents can purchase. The books that are promoted by the school are 'Workabooks'. The Workabook approach to homework is systematic and carefully planned to support children with their learning, consolidate classroom teaching and provide an organisational structure which will enable pupils to manage homework effectively with positive results. Parents can order and purchase these books directly from Workabook at <http://www.workabook.co.uk/>. Once purchased, parents will be provided by Workabook the resources they need as well as the answers to each activity task.

Teacher will inform parents of appropriate tasks to complete within the Workabooks each week.

If a child is working below their year group expectations, parents are invited to meet with their teacher to discuss the appropriate books to be purchased.

A sample of the Workabooks can be viewed at the main school office or alternatively more information can be found at <http://www.workabook.co.uk/>.

Eleven books in the series cover English and mathematics for Years 2 to 6



Year 2 and Year 6 SATS

Teachers may choose to set additional homework in the form of SATS practice to prepare the children for their end of key stage tests. Teachers will decide upon the best format for this homework and this will depend on the needs of the children.