

## **St. John's School Policy on Homework**

### **Rationale**

St. John's 'Home/School Agreement' states that:

"The school will ...

- Provide pupils with homework as appropriate;"

The school acknowledges that parents and carers play a vital part in their child's education. Parents/carers work and play with their children but don't necessarily see these activities as homework.

Homework is to be enjoyable and rewarding for all involved and is intended to be a complimentary part of family life. Homework is not an additional chore and is not compulsory!

### **What is homework?**

Homework refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with family members or carers. Using this broad definition all pupils, whatever their age or ability can be involved in homework.

Homework set by the school will range from informal to formal tasks. Many of these tasks will be reinforcing the functional and transferable targets set in the pupil's individual education plan (IEP).

Such tasks may include:

- for a pupil learning to count to 5, setting the table and finding 5 cups;
- for a pupil developing the use of a symbol communication system to exchange a picture for a drink;
- pupil learning to cut up food;

Other tasks may include:

- parent reading to the pupil or sharing a book
- reading – books, comics, web pages, environmental print
- recognising, reading, blending and segmenting sounds
- completing a worksheet
- going to the library
- researching a theme
- reading the TV times and making a list of all the programmes that start at 7.30pm
- asking family and friends questions related to a current class theme
- using the internet with guidance to research a current class theme

Homework will vary greatly depending on the age, ability and needs of the pupil. However all activities must be:

- motivating
- challenging but achievable
- useful

Specific issues, such as the content of the homework, allocation of time, frequency and levels of support to be given etc. will be discussed on an individual basis by the parent/carer and the teacher.

### **What is the purpose of homework?**

Ideally homework should:

- provide greater opportunities for the school and families to work in partnership towards a shared aim- the education of the child or young adult
- allow the pupil to practice and consolidate skills beyond the classroom
- encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work independently

What is the role of the school and that of the parents?

It is the responsibility of the teacher to raise the subject of homework with the parent/carer at the beginning of the school year or soon after pupil admission if mid-year.

It is the responsibility of the teacher to discuss on an ongoing basis the details of the homework with the parents/carers. Such details should include, for example:

- the content of the homework
- the quantity of homework given
- guidance on the level of support
- guidance on how the activity is to be carried out
- how the activities will be monitored

Homework should be properly planned and organised so that:

- pupils are not expected to do too much on one day and not enough on another
- the tasks they are set are realistic within the time available
- tasks are not too difficult or too easy
- pupils are given feedback on their homework

### **Resourcing of homework activities**

Teachers will send resources home to extend pupil learning. Resources may include books, symbol schedules or a pre-prepared homework pack. It is understood that resources remain the property of the school and that ongoing homework relies upon the return of resources when required.

### **Feedback, monitoring and evaluation**

The Assistant Head for Pupil Support will conduct an annual audit of homework across the school. The audit will investigate the type and frequency of homework given by each teacher, the support provided to families in relation to homework and the response from pupils and families. The findings from the audit will be shared with the School Leadership Group and any concerns shared with teachers. Members of the leadership group

responsible for chairing Annual Reviews will also have this opportunity to discuss homework with the class teachers and families.

Pupils will receive feedback through, for example:

- praise from parents/carers and staff
- individual systems of reward
- group recognition of achievement

Parent/carers will receive feedback through, for example:

- use of home/school book
- formal and informal dialogue with class staff e.g. consultation evening, Annual Review meeting

Teachers will receive feedback through, for example:

- formal and informal dialogue with parents/carers
- use of homework diary or home/school book
- reports from parents/carers
- annual review meetings/consultation evenings

### **Policy promotion and review**

This policy will be available on the school web-site and copies available from the school office on request.

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Personnel and Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body.