

Our Lady's & St
Mochua's Primary
School

Homework Policy



What is homework?

In Our Lady's and St. Mochua's PS we define homework as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parental support. Homework presents an excellent opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting learning.

Why do we give homework?

There are a number of important reasons why homework is given.

Homework.....

- is an active and practical way for parents to be involved in their children's learning
- allows children an opportunity to reinforce, practise and/or consolidate work introduced in school
- helps children to work independently and develop responsibility for their work
- facilitates the means of developing research skills and the use of resources which exist beyond the school environment
- allows children to engage with their parents in a range of activities
- facilitates the development of an effective partnership between teachers, parents and children

Expectations

- Homework will be differentiated, where necessary, taking into account the range of pupil capabilities, in order to provide an appropriate challenge for individual children.
- Each child will have a structured nightly homework.
- Homework for pupils with Special Educational Needs will reflect the children's different needs and abilities.
- Homework will be clearly explained to children.
- Homework will have a clear focus.
- Pupils will be expected to complete their homework.*
- Pupils will check over their homework and where necessary will self-correct.
- Parents are asked to provide a brief written explanation if homework has not been completed for any reason.
- All homework will be marked.
- Children will get written or oral feedback on their work, to help them to improve.

- Class work and/or homework will not be provided for children who are taken out of school to go on holiday during term time.
- Parents should sign the homework book at the end of each week.

*A child who does not complete their homework in full, without explanation from the parent, may be given the homework again during the morning break, golden time, Friday club or receive the homework again on the next night. Parents will be informed if there is a persistent failure to complete homework.

Types of homework

1. Reading

Reading is an essential part of homework and is a necessary way of broadening a child's understanding, knowledge and vocabulary. Homework will promote reading for enjoyment and the development of independent reading skills.

How can you help your child with reading?

Parents can encourage the development of children's reading by;

- reading to their children, reading with their children and listening to their children read.
- ensuring your child has their reading up-to-date as outlined in their Reading Schedule.
- listening to their reading and discussing it with them.
- taking them to the library and ensuring they have a variety of reading texts, for example, comics, magazines, newspapers, novels, non-fiction etc.

Reading in the Foundation Stage (P1 & 2) & Key Stage 1 (P3)

All reading schemes are placed in a specific band.

Children will read from different reading schemes within each band.

Children will progress to the next band when they have made satisfactory progress.

Children will not read exclusively from the same scheme.

Children will be taught their reading book in class and the book will then be sent home.

Parents should read/discuss the book with their child and follow any activities given to the book.

Reading in Key Stage 1 (P4) & Key Stage 2 (P5-7)

By P4 and into Key Stage 2 the majority of children will have become independent readers and will not need the same one-to-one teacher time. However, close observation of their reading will still be required. Each child will have a reading schedule detailing what reading and reading work they have to complete each night. Reading sessions will concentrate on story discussion, questioning and opinions and not on 'hearing reading'.

Supplementary Reading Books

Children in Primaries 1-3 will receive a supplementary reading book to read. This will be in addition to their main reading book. The supplementary reading book will be banded/graded and should match your child's reading ability.

Accelerated Reading

Children in Primaries 4-7 will all be registered to take part in the accelerated reading programme. Children will choose a book matched to their ability from our accelerated reading library and complete a quiz on the book when they have it read. The programme will calculate your child's progress and move them up reading levels when deemed necessary by the programme.

We aim to maximise the amount your child reads!

Extra Reading Materials

Library books: Children will be able to access a wide range of fiction and non-fiction material from their class library.

**There will be no written homework at weekends but we would recommend that pupils continue with their independent reading over the weekend.*

2 Spellings:

Spellings are also an essential part of homework. The peace and quiet of home is an opportunity for children to get the time to learn their spellings. Each child will have a variety of spelling activities to complete each week which are aimed at helping the children learn their spellings. The main activity is the LSCWC method.

Look
Say
Cover
Write
Check

Help your child to spell!

For each spelling the child should look at it, then say the word and each letter, then cover it, then write it and then check it.

Spellings will be taught in school as part of our Linguistic Phonic Programme.

1. Children in Primaries Two - Seven will learn spellings. Each day the children will learn the spellings during class time, as part of the Linguistic Programme, with reinforcement and related activities for homework.
2. Parents should use the LOOK, COVER, SAY, WRITE, CHECK method to reinforce spellings with their children as above.
3. The class teacher will record how well each child has grasped the spellings in an informal way - games, orally, whiteboard throughout the week etc
4. There will also be a formal fortnightly spelling test from Primary 4 - 7 which will be sent home for parents to sign.
5. Primary 3 will begin formal spelling tests in term3.

3. Number Bonds:

A copy of all number bonds for each class will be given out to parents. Number bonds reinforced at home have a positive impact upon the progress made by children.

What are number bonds?

E.g. The number bonds to 10 are: 6+4, 5+5, 3+7 etc
The number bonds to 15 are: 7+8, 6+9, 10+5, 2+13 etc
And so on for each number - usually up to 20 is reinforced at home

A copy of all number bonds for each class will be given out to parents.

There will be also a formal fortnightly Number Bond Test from Primary 3 - 5 which will be sent home for parents to sign.

4. Multiplication Tables:

Children from Primary 5 onwards will be required to learn the times tables. It is essential that these are learned and reinforced at home on a nightly basis for consolidation.

There will be also a formal fortnightly Tables Test from Primary 5 - 7 which will be sent home for parents to sign.

5. Alta Maths:

Children from Primary 4 onwards will also be registered for our Alta Math's Programme. Children will be expected to complete some Alta Maths for homework. The Alta Maths Programme will provide;

- Challenging and stimulating questions
- Increased motivation and enjoyment
- Great variety of questions and response types
- Immediate assessment and feedback, with model answers
- Voiceovers for students with reading difficulties or those for whom English is a second language
- Opportunity to develop ICT skills

6. Written homework

Written homework is based on work already covered in school. All written homework should be neatly presented and be of a similar standard to that acceptable in school.

Active Learning: In light of the Northern Ireland Curriculum some homework may not be written. Pupils may be required to research topics or bring in items for class discussions or investigations e.g. cuttings from magazines, photographs etc.

As your children progresses through the school they are encouraged to work as independently as possible. In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 we expect children will require much help and assistance but this should lessen as the child matures.

A more detailed explanation of homework for the different classes will be given at the Curriculum Information Evenings at the beginning of each academic year.

Completion of Homework

Each teacher will give out homework on a Monday for the whole week. Children should complete Monday night's homework first before moving on to Tuesday nights and date and title accordingly.

It is understandable that due to after school commitments some parents may wish to double up on a written homework - we leave this to the discretion of each parent but would not recommend more than two homeworks on any one night and would also recommend that reading, spellings, number bonds and/or tables are gone over each night.

In general homework will be given Monday - Thursday with no written homework at the weekend. However, children would still be required to read over the weekend.

Time Spent on Homework:

It is suggested that the time spent on homework should be:

- Primary 1 - 15-30 minutes
- Primary 2 - 15-30 minutes
- Primary 3 - 30-45 minutes
- Primary 4 - 30-45 minutes
- Primary 5 - 30-45 minutes
- Primary 6 - 1hr
- Primary 7 - 1hr

Extension Homework

It is impossible to set individual homework. With this in mind we have created a Homework Page on our school website on www.derrynooseps.co.uk. This will allow for additional homework to be completed. Each class homework will have an English and Math's Homework Set for Term 1, 2 and 3. Simply print off each set and allow your child to complete at a pace that you feel is appropriate. Extension homework can then be returned to school for marking.

Please remember

- Some children will finish homework quickly while others may require more time. Please encourage those children who are finished quickly to check over their work and if necessary to self correct. They could then read their library book or reading book or visit the school website on www.derrynooseps.co.uk and go to the LINKS page. There are a number of educational websites within the links page that we would recommend for further learning.
- If your child is spending too long on homework, please note this on the homework and sign and reassure your child that he/she has completed enough. Each teacher will monitor this and reduce homework if required.
- If for some reason homework cannot be completed, please provide a brief written explanation in the child's homework book or send a note to the class teacher.

Uncompleted Homework:

A child who does not complete their homework in full, without explanation from the parent, may be given the homework again during a morning break, golden time, Friday club or receive the homework again on the next night. Parents will be informed if there is a persistent failure to complete homework.

Primary 1 From Term 2 Homework given out on a Monday for the week. <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ MON: Letter of week/Reading Activity□ TUE: Phonics□ WED: Maths Worksheet□ THURS: Letter/Number Formation□ Nightly - Reading Book/ Supplementary Reader
Primary 2 Homework given out on a Monday for the week. Spellings - 5 Term 1 / 5 Term 2 / 6 Term 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ MON: Making and breaking letters to make words (Spellings)□ TUES: Use two spellings to write two sentences and Reading Sheet□ WED: Maths worksheet□ THURS: Making and breaking words to build 1 or 2 sentences.□ Nightly - Reading Book/ Supplementary Reader
Primary 3 Time Allocation Maximum 45 Minutes Homework given out on a Monday for the week. <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ 6 Term 1 / 6 Term 2 / 6 Term 3 Spellings per week from spelling programme.□ One of either a Maths/Literacy/Mental Maths/ Spelling Worksheet per night.□ Nightly - Reading Book/ Supplementary Reader
Primary 4 -7 Time Allocation Maximum 45 Mins P4/5 I Hour P6-7 Homework given out on a Monday for the week. <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ Reading Nightly with two reading activities.□ 10 (8 For P4) Spellings per week from spelling programme plus two spelling activities.□ Learning Tables Nightly

Each child will have

Reading, Mental Maths and a Spelling Schedule for Six weeks with a Maths and English worksheet or topic based/ ICT work given out weekly.

E.g

Monday/Wednesday

Reading

Accelerated Reading

Spellings

Tables

Literacy HW or Maths HW

Tuesday/Thursday

Reading + Activity

Accelerated Reading

Spellings + Activity

Tables

Mental Maths Activity/Alta

Maths

Homework Guide - The following is a guide to what homework your child will get from each class.

How can you encourage your child to do homework well?

- Show an interest in what your child is doing
- Ask your child to tell you what homework he/she has to do
- Encourage your child to check over the homework and help your child to present the homework well
- Praise your child when the homework is good.
- Read stories to your child, read stories with your child and listen to your child reading.
- Homework book should be signed at the end of the week when all homework has been completed.

Please remember

Reading and the learning of Spellings, Number Bonds and Tables should take priority over written homework.

Conclusion:

Acceptance of admission to the school implies the parents' acceptance of the School's Homework Policy.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually.