



Christ Church

Church of England Primary School

Being Thankful, Celebration, Fairness, Forgiveness, Honesty, Love for All

HOMEWORK POLICY

The ethos of our school is embedded in our key Christian values

Honesty

Forgiveness

Love for all

Celebration

Fairness

Being Thankful

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and this policy supports this commitment.

*Policy revised: March 2014 Revised Oct 2014
March 2016*

Review Date: October 2019

Embedding Pupil Safeguarding Awareness in the Curriculum

All teachers incorporate elements of safeguarding into their lessons where appropriate. This involves:

- Informal conversations;
- Teacher/pupil discussions;
- Briefings for outings and trips (road safety/stranger danger etc) ;
- The implementing of our e-Safety Policy regarding ICT usage;
- An awareness of any potential hazards in lessons – identifying risks and dangers;
- Fire drills;

Safeguarding is also about pupils' emotional well-being. Teachers encourage pupils to speak out if there is something worrying them, or if they are aware of, or witness something unacceptable, untoward or disturbing. Teachers promote tolerance and respect for each other and acceptance of individual differences. Teachers help pupils develop confidence and resilience and discuss what to do if things go wrong. They are approachable and show their willingness to help pupils at all times.

British Values

At Christ Church C of E Primary School we promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

This includes:

- paired and group work as sharing and working together
- making choices with an understanding that the freedom to choose and have other views is respected and tolerated
- debating social issues with an understanding of how people can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- an appreciation that school rules protect individual children and are essential for their wellbeing and safety
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) are accepted and tolerated without discrimination through school council elections, persuasive writing, and by promoting our Christian school values and Fruits of the Spirit as guidelines for behaviour choices.

Rationale

In March 2012 the government withdrew the guidelines on homework allowing headteachers to decide whether or not homework plays a part in a child's education. A spokesman was quoted in the press as saying "*Homework is part and parcel of a good education – along with high quality teaching and strong discipline. We trust headteachers to set the homework policy for their school. They know their pupils best and should be free to make these decisions without having to adhere to unnecessary bureaucratic guidance.*"

Ofsted Grade descriptors for the quality of teaching, learning and assessment

Teachers set challenging homework, in line with the school's policy and as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come.

(Ofsted School inspection handbook August 2016)

The homework policy set out below reflects the view that homework plays an important part in a child's education and has been devised in consultation with the governors, staff, parents and pupils.

The purpose/aims of homework:

- To develop an effective, working partnership between the school and parents and other carers, which will underpin the home school agreement and make it a working document.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and mathematics
- To encourage pupils, as they get older, to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own and prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

In order for these aims to be achieved:

Teachers will:

- Plan homework as part of the medium and short term plans reflecting the learning in class each week– in KS1 mainly in English and Mathematics. Homework for science and other topics gradually being increased as the children move through the school.
- Guide children to choose suitable reading books covering a variety of fiction and non-fiction genres. children of all ages and abilities are expected to read regularly as part of their homework and recorded in their individual Reading Record books.
- Check the child's home reading record at regular intervals.
- Give clear guidance to pupils and parents on how to complete a homework task successfully.
- Mark homework in accordance with the school's marking policy.
- Recognise children's efforts by occasionally celebrating homework in assembly and by displaying good examples.
- Have the same high expectations with regard to presentation and achievement of homework as class work.
- Differentiate homework, where necessary, taking into account individual needs. Carry out an appropriate sanctions should homework be incomplete, of an unacceptable standard or not returned on time to ensure a desirable outcome for the learner.

Homework tasks might include:

- Playing maths games
- Investigating spelling patterns

- Completing a task to reinforce non-negotiable grammatical knowledge, spelling or a concept in mathematics
- Practising handwriting
- Finding out information
- Additional reading in preparation for lessons
- Preparing oral presentation
- More traditional written assignments
- Written work in response to a reading task e.g. entries in a reading journal

Parents will:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their homework.
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework.
- Encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed homework.
- Contact the class teacher if the pupil is experiencing any difficulties or if the pupil is taking longer than the suggested time to do the homework.
- Monitor the standard of homework.
- Ensure that the work is the child's own work,
- Encourage independent study skills.

Share reading experiences with their child regularly. These might include:

- Listening to the child read
- Shared reading – alternate pages/alternate lines
- Reading to the child and discussing the story
- Questioning the child about what he/she has just read

Sign the home reading record, monitoring what their child is reading.

Pupils will:

- Make sure they understand what they have to do by asking for further explanation from the teacher if required.
- Know that they can ask for help from a parent or carer, older siblings or another family member.
- Complete homework to at least the same standard as their class work, using pencil or black handwriting pen, never coloured ink.
- Return homework on time.
- Understand the consequences of not completing homework and/or not returning homework on time.
- Read regularly as part of homework – either aloud to an adult or on his/her own, recording a response to the reading in the reading record.

Homework tasks will be set for all children in year 1 upwards. All tasks, including regular reading, should be completed within the time allocations.

Time allocations are as follows:

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| <u>Reception</u> | | Reading Phonics sheets (when the child is ready) (Handwriting from Spring term) |
| <u>Years 1 and 2</u> | 1 hour / week | Reading, English including phonics or spelling rules and mathematics |
| | Once a term | RE creative and/or written response to learning in RE |
| <u>Years 3 and 4</u> | 1.5 hours / week | Reading, English including spelling rules and Mathematics with occasional assignments in other subjects |
| | Once a term | RE creative and/or written response to learning in RE |
| <u>Years 5 and 6</u> | 2.5 hours / week | Reading, continued emphasis on English spelling and grammar and Mathematics but ranging widely over the curriculum |
| | Once a term | RE creative and/or written response to learning in RE |

Homework Club

Homework club will run after school on a weekly basis and will be on an 'invitation only' basis. This will be targeted at PPG and FSM children for extra support. Teachers will make recommendations to the staff running the group.

All homework will be set on a Monday to be returned the following Monday.

Reviewed May 2010

Reviewed March 2014 updated January 2015

Updated December 2016