

# WELWYN ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HOMework POLICY



# **HOMEWORK POLICY STATEMENT**

## **Purpose of homework**

Learning at home is invaluable and an essential part of working in partnership to support your child's learning. Research shows when parents share in their child's learning through homework, progress and enjoyment is significantly raised.

The main benefits of homework are:

- opportunities for families to talk and learn together
- the improvement in attitudes to learning
- increased independence in learning
- the provision of additional study time to help the pupils achieve higher standards
- extended coverage of the curriculum

## **Implementation**

The responsibility of implementing the homework policy lies jointly with the teachers, the pupils and the parents.

Teachers need to:

- set homework that is appropriate
- take time in class to clarify what is expected
- set work regularly on the day it is expected
- ensure work is marked and give feedback as appropriate
- encourage work to be returned on time

Pupils need to:

- ensure appropriate work is taken home
- ensure work is completed in time
- ensure work is brought back to school on time
- ask if unsure what is expected, before leaving class

Parents need to:

- provide a suitable quiet area for child to work
- encourage children to do homework
- give support where needed
- ensure homework is returned on time
- listen to child reading and ask appropriate questions
- check and sign reading record books

**Homework needs to be valued by us all.**

Homework is viewed as essential for every year group but the amount and type of homework will vary throughout the school.

The following time allocations are for guidance only:

Reception:	1.25 hrs a week	Mainly reading and Phonics with small tasks such as bringing specific objects to school
Year 1:	1.25 hrs a week	Mainly reading and Phonics with small tasks such as bringing specific objects to school Spellings Maths
Year 2:	2 hrs a week	Reading Spellings Maths
Years 3/4:	2.5 hrs a week	Reading Spellings Mental maths Tables
Years 5/6:	3 hrs a week	Reading Spellings Mental maths Tables

**Reading** at home should be on a daily basis and parents should enter comments about a pupil's reading in their reading book. The younger pupils will share books with parents and read aloud. The older pupils will read more independently but need to discuss what their books are about. Please note that older pupils still benefit from sharing books and reading aloud to parents and **all** pupils enjoy being read to by an adult.

With **spellings** children should be encouraged to use the look, say, cover, write and check method.

Throughout KS2 some investigative **topic** research or projects related to the curriculum will be set.

**Topic homework** requires the use of research skills. The local library will provide support and help. The library is also an excellent source for holiday reading.

Homework will be set in advance to allow pupils and parents to choose the most appropriate time for its completion. Usually only work not finished during the school day will be expected to be completed by the following day. A week is given for mental maths homework.

Remember that little and often has more effect with spellings and tables. It should not just be left to the night before.

The policy states the value we place on homework at St Mary's School. However, we also value the importance of each child pursuing other interests outside school and we recognise that the fulfilment of these activities takes both time and commitment after school. We aim to ensure that, by working as a staff with parents and pupils, a successful balance will be achieved by making time for both homework and other activities in a child's busy life.