



**St Augustine of Canterbury  
Catholic Primary School**

# Homework Policy

DATE: January 2020

Version History	Date	Reason for Amendment
1.0	07/05/2020	Format Revision

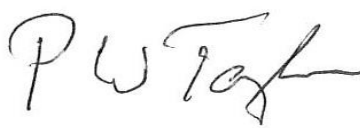
*“Created by God to love and learn”*

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## Document Information

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Author	Head Teacher	Review Frequency	Every 2 years Subject to local education authority and/or national policy change
Date of Ratification	February 2020	Related Policies	
Review Group	Curriculum Committee	Ratified at Full Governing Body February 2020	
Review Date	March 2022	Chair of Governors Signature 	

## HOMEWORK POLICY

### Mission Statement

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School provides an education that inspires and nurtures God's children to succeed to their full potential as we are...

*"Created by God to love and learn"*

### **Rationale:**

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School is committed to setting regular homework appropriate to the age, needs and experiences of the child. Homework is important at all stages in a child's education and when used properly, it extends the challenge open to the pupil and ensures that teaching time is used to maximum effect. Homework makes a significant contribution to the development of independent learning. Homework refers to any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. This work will be marked where appropriate by class teachers, support staff, pupils and peers.

### **Aims of structured Homework:**

- To support children's learning opportunities via reinforcement and revision, particularly in R.E., Maths, English and Science.
- To share with parents the expectations school has regarding their child.
- To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning experiences and to exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home.
- To encourage the development of positive attitudes towards learning among children.
- To equip the pupils, with the self-discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the increased demands of secondary school homework.

### **Recommended Time Allocation:**

The school recommends the following time allocations for homework:

Reception & Year 1 & 2	60 minutes per week.
Years 3 & 4	90 minutes per week
Years 5 & 6	120 minutes per week.

- The recommended time to be spent on homework for each year group is outlined on class homework letters at the start of each academic year to clarify expectations and avoid children spending too much time on homework.
- If a child has spent the recommended time on a piece of homework but has not completed the homework, parents are invited to sign the homework and indicate how long was spent doing it in order ensure quality family time is not impacted and the child is not spending an unreasonably long time completing homework.
- Homework will not be expected to be finished at school if signed by a parent indicating appropriate time has already been spent on the homework.

- Homework is not optional, therefore when a child does not complete any learning of tables, spellings, practiced reading or completed other expected opportunities, they can complete it in school.
- Homework is not generally expected to be completed during end of long term holidays as the school regards holidays as an opportunity for quality family time. However, we do encourage projects over half terms when many children may stay at home. (Exceptions include Y6 Class Easter work for SATs preparation).

### Homework Procedures:

**Homework letters:** At the beginning of each year parents receive a class newsletter including homework arrangements. This letter outlines the procedures, expectations and times / dates regarding the homework their child will receive during the term ahead. Class newsletters are also posted on the school website. Homework letters include the following information:

- Subjects for which homework is issued, (R.E. Reading, English, Topic, Maths & Science)
- regularity,
- time expectations,
- days given / handed in,
- recording procedures

### How to help your child at home:

It is important to note that parent help with homework is very much appreciated, welcomed and beneficial to the child; however homework is the responsibility of the pupil, not the parent. It aims to develop pupils' personal responsibility, time management skills and independent study skills for employment later in life.

### How we help pupils complete homework:

The learning style we promote is a supportive culture enabling pupils to be honest about their difficulties, able to share their mistakes and willing to ask for help. Parents, older siblings, staff, friends and pupil mentors may be involved in helping pupils complete their homework.

Pupils should use their personal responsibility, time management skills and support outlined below to be successful in completing homework over the course of one week.

For KS1 Pupils we recommend:

- Pupils complete homework in **short daily sessions**, 'a little and often' for example reading on a daily basis for a 10 minutes.
- Pupils complete homework by using **games** enabling pupil's emotions of enthusiasm and excitement to help them learn avoiding emotions of fear and anxiety. The use of **rewards** is important means to motivate pupils.
- Pupils complete homework **together** with adults or older siblings to encourage a supportive culture whereby pupils understand they always have help at hand.
- Pupils complete homework by **talking** about it to family members – as learning is enhanced by sharing with others.
- One **formal** activity in English and on-line 'My Maths' resources especially from Year 1
- All children will have a 'Magpie' Tin to store spellings, tables and number bond facts.

For KS2 Pupils we recommend:

- Pupils should complete their **formal** homework **early** in the weekly cycle on their own to take responsibility for developing their independent learning skills and personal time management skills. Reading should be undertaken daily, alongside Magpie Tin challenges for spellings, number bonds and tables. Formal homework may take the form of a project over a few weeks and involve modelling just prior and over half term periods. KS 2 are currently following a formal English Grammar book published by Schofield & Sims.
- Pupils should ask for an adult or older sibling to check / help them complete their homework at the week-end. This is a very important opportunity to develop a child's self-checking and review skills. At first the pupil may be quite adult dependant, but during the course of the year this is expected to diminish, as the child grows in confidence, independence and personal responsibility. On line checking for 'My Maths' is part of the program, but parents need to monitor scores, if possible, as extra practice can be done if thought appropriate. There are also games that reinforce learning objectives to use.
- Pupils should, if necessary, bring homework into school on Mondays if they are still struggling with it. In school, the teacher will always provide support and encouragement. For some children, a pupil mentor, member of staff or friend of the pupil can also provide the support and encouragement to complete the homework and check it.
- It is important that pupils have regular breaks and therefore do not stay in for more than 5 minutes to complete or correct homework work during a break time and for no more than 20 minutes during a lunch time, other opportunities to complete work include 10 minutes during registration time, arriving 10 minutes before registration extends this period. Pupils asking for help or offering help receive rewards for demonstrating personal responsibility to manage their time or support other pupils. A Homework Club is offered initially to invited pupils who are subject to pupil premium, especially where homework is not regularly engaged in to support learning.
- Pupils should hand in their homework **at the end of the weekly cycle** on the day prescribed in the class homework letter which is generally a Tuesday.

#### **Communication with parents:**

Homework procedures provide opportunity for teachers and parents to express specific requirements, concerns or comments regarding the homework of individual children. The homework letter specifies the procedures applicable to each class which usually involves a homework diary or reading diary that parents are able to write their comments. Homework is monitored on a regular basis by staff to assess pupil progress, and to reward consistent effort.

#### **Rewards for completion of homework:**

Each class teacher keeps a register of completed homework. This helps to monitor children's attitudes and achievement and helps inform discussions with parents. Children who complete homework are rewarded in line with the school's behaviour policy.

#### **Procedures regarding incomplete homework:**

Pupils who do not complete their homework or who have not spent the recommended time trying to complete their homework will be required to set a time in school during the period to finish it often with help from pupil mentors or staff to ensure the pupil understands and is confident regarding the homework content.

Parents may be notified by text or phone by their child's teacher if their child regularly fails to submit homework or does not spend the recommended time trying to complete their homework. Regular problems completing homework can be addressed by attendance at the Homework Club after school once a week.

**Equality Impact Assessment -Groups that may be affected:**

Are there concerns that the policy could have a different impact on any of the following groups? (please tick the relevant boxes)	Existing or potential adverse impact	Existing or potential for a positive impact x or n.a.
<b>Age</b> (young people, the elderly; issues surrounding protection and welfare, recruitment, training, pay, promotion)		
<b>Disability</b> (physical and mental disability, learning difficulties; issues surrounding access to buildings, curriculum and communication)		<b>x</b>
<b>Gender reassignment</b> (transsexual)		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>		
<b>Racial groups</b> (consider: language, culture, ethnicity including gypsy/traveller groups and asylum seekers)	<b>x</b> <b>(Access to on-line)</b>	<b>x</b> <b>(Homework Club)</b>
<b>Religion or belief</b> (practices of worship, religious or cultural observance, including non-belief)		
<b>Gender</b> (male, female)		
<b>Sexual orientation</b> (gay, lesbian, bisexual; actual or perceived)		