

St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School



Homework policy 2023 - 2025



In partnership with home and parish, St Gerard's Catholic Primary School seeks to provide a Catholic Education that promotes a full understanding of the Catholic faith and is underpinned by the Gospel Virtues. At St Gerard's, homework means any work or activities which our children are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

We believe the purposes of homework are:

- to encourage our children to learn independently and give them responsibility for their learning;
- to consolidate and reinforce key skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy, e.g. learning tables and spellings as well as daily reading;
- To help parents and carers become involved in their child's learning and provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership.
- To be purposeful and to bridge the gap between home and school.

The Education Endowment Fund had completed extensive research on the impact setting homework has on learning, it is found that:

*“The broader evidence base suggests that **short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school**, are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework.”*

This research, alongside the Gospel Virtues, underpins this policy.

The school, parents and pupils each have responsibilities regarding Homework. These are as follows -

School is responsible for setting homework appropriate to the child's age and ability;

Parents are responsible for providing their child with time, space, encouragement and support with any homework they have including hearing their child read and assisting in the learning of tables and spellings;

Pupils are responsible for undertaking any homework set and remembering to take home and return to school all books and equipment needed to undertake their homework. **School will ask children to complete homework in their own time if not completed without a valid reason.**

Expectations:

The school understands that homework can be a contentious issue and therefore we aim to make homework as stress free as possible. We have therefore have limited our essential homework to just the core skills of Reading, Spelling and Maths core skills (Multiplication, Arithmetic).

All homework is given out on a **Monday** will be expected to be completed for **Friday**- we want our families spending time together or participating in clubs and other hobbies.

Homework Guide

St Gerard's aims to be as environmentally friendly as possible and will therefore send out the majority of the homework through an online portal.

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| Spelling | Weekly spelling will be uploaded to Purple Mash. A short task may accompany this. Children will be tested on a Friday. |
| Maths | Children are expected to access Numbots in KS1 and TT Rockstars in KS2, throughout the week. Again there will be a test on Friday. |
| Reading | Children are expected to read at least 3x a week . We ask parents sign the reading record, to acknowledge they have read at home. However, we would always advocate children to read every night; to encourage the love of reading. The School Library and Class Reading Corners are available for all children and we encourage them to borrow books to read for pleasure. |

In addition to the above, a class teacher may ask children to complete a project linked to a new topic. These should be only a few times throughout the school year and something the children enjoy doing.

As Year 6 approach their end of year tests (SATs) we will provide them with additional material to help their preparation.

EYFS will only send Reading homework home and this is their primary focus.

Paper copies of homework may be sent home when requested.

Pupils with special educational needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children have the opportunity to access the curriculum.

Homework Support

If a child is struggling to complete homework for any reason (doesn't have access to technology, bereavement in the family, needs extra support) then we are happy to support during the school day.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school Homework Policy. This Policy was first reviewed and approved by the Governing Body July 2023.

Signed: _____
Chair of Curriculum Committee_____