



## **Sacred Heart Catholic School Homework Policy**

### **Mission Statement**

**We live and learn in faith and love for the Lord.**

At Sacred Heart Catholic School, we recognise that all children have rights as outlined in the UN Convention. As duty bearers, we have the responsibility to respect these rights and are committed to supporting our children through their education and to ensure that they are rights-holders. We are committed to promoting resilience amongst our pupils and developing their independent learning skills. The school's Catholic ethos strives to create a learning environment where every child is encouraged and enabled to develop to their full and unique potential as human beings, made in the image and likeness of God. We are committed to encouraging the child to develop their own work ethic and ethos beyond the environment of the school.

We aim to provide our pupils with: their 'right to 'get information that is important to your well-being from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful and help you find and understand the information you need' as stated in Article 17. The right to 'a good quality education: you should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can' as stated in Article 28. The right to 'be an education that helps you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people' as stated in Article 29.

### **1 Introduction**

Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning. It is an important tool in promoting subject knowledge across the curriculum.

We recognise that the time and resources available limit the educational experience that any school by itself can provide; children benefit greatly therefore from the mutual support of parents, carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school.

Homework is an important way of establishing a successful link between home and school.

We aim for all our children to develop as independent learners and we believe homework will help children to acquire this skill.

### **2 Rationale for homework**

Homework is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning. Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time

in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils.

### **3 Aims and objectives**

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- to enable all aspects of the curriculum to be covered in sufficient depth;
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- to help children develop good work habits for the future.

### **4 Types of homework**

We increase the amount of homework that we give the children as they move through the school:

#### **Foundation Year**

Foundation – Homework is based mainly on reading activities throughout the year. Children receive sound sheets to reinforce school work until all 42 sounds are covered. They are given a reading book/ditty which may include high frequency words to share and practise each week.

#### **Year 1 and Year 2**

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 should spend approximately one hour per week on homework which includes reading with an adult.

#### **Year 3 and Year 4**

Children in Year 3 and Year 4 should spend approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes per week on English

(reading, writing, spelling ...), Maths and other topic related work.

#### **Year 5 and Year 6**

Children in Year 5 and Year 6 should spend approximately 30 minutes per night on a range of activities across all aspects of the curriculum.

All children from Foundation upwards will be given a reading record which staff, parents, carers and children can record the books they have read and note any comments regarding their reading; parents are asked to acknowledge that they have heard their child read.

**Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2** may also have vocabulary words and sounds to be learnt.

Homework is marked according to the general school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

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, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

## **7 The role of parents and carers**

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact the Academy Committee via the complaints procedure.

## **8 Use of ICT**

Where possible, homework will be set on Google Classroom where appropriate for the child (access to devices etc)

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet.

## **9 Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our Local Governing Body to agree and then monitor the school homework policy. Parents and carers complete a questionnaire each year, and during the school's Ofsted inspection, and the Local Governing Body pays careful consideration to any concern that is raised by any parent. The Local Governing Body may, at any time, request from the Principal a report on the way in which homework is organised in school.

This policy will be reviewed in two years or earlier if necessary.