

# St John's CE JMI School

## Home Learning Policy

**'We are learning for living'**

### **Feedback on your child's home learning**

It is important for your child to know what they have done well and what they could do better. Sometimes home learning will be discussed in lessons, or teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a task. If your child has difficulties with a home learning task, they should discuss it with their teacher or you might wish to discuss the issue with us yourself.

### **Should I help my child with home learning?**

Home learning allows you to see what your child is learning in school and to support them in their learning. This partnership between school and home is a vital part of successful education, progress for your child and vitally important to the enjoyment of learning!

We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved in a supportive and encouraging way with praise for what your child does well and positive discussion of what might be better. We believe passionately that if a task is a little challenging it means you are stretching your brain and really thinking and learning... it does not mean failure but growth even if the outcome is not perfect.

If you are unsure about how much help to give, you should discuss it with your child's teacher.

They will be pleased to see you and will help you to get the balance right. We know it is not always easy!



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### **What are our Values and Aims?**

This policy emphasises the importance of home learning and how it can help your child to embrace challenge, develop a love of learning and to make good progress. Whilst most parents do appreciate the value and importance of home learning, some may feel that we do not set enough and others may feel that there is too much! The amount and type of home learning we set is generally at a level which is reasonable and is based on our shared aspirations below.

#### **Through this policy we aim to:**

- Personalise home learning wherever possible through tasks which stimulate enjoyment of learning for your child
- Improve your child's standards of achievement and progress.
- Promote progression towards independent learning.
- Ensure parents have a clear understanding about the expectations of your role and your child's achievement.
- Provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work together in partnership.
- Provide opportunities for parents and their children to work together to enjoy learning experiences.

### What is home learning?

For the purpose of this policy "home learning" refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parental support.

### Why is home learning important?

At St. John's we believe that opportunities for home learning are important because they:

- consolidate and reinforce your child's skills and understanding.
- encourage your child to develop a positive and enthusiastic approach to independent learning
- help to inform you about your child's learning and give you the opportunity to support them at home
- promote independent learning as a valuable life skill and develop good learning habits for secondary school, future employment and for personal development.

### What sort of activities will the children be doing?

Our home learning activities are related to the learning your child is doing at school but will not always be in the form of written tasks.

### Talking Homework

As a vitally important element of our whole school 'Big Writing' programme, Talking Homework will be given to Year 1 to 6 over each weekend. This learning is an essential part of your child's preparation for Big Writing on Monday mornings. It involves talking with your child (this can be you, grandparents, older siblings etc) about what they might write, discussing vocabulary, bouncing ideas off each other, thinking of descriptive phrases or words - just helping them get 'into' their topic so they can write with more confidence and ideas. **Brief notes can be sent in** to remind children of their conversations and ideas but please do not write the task for them in full sentences- key phrases only!

### Home learning in the Foundation Stage (Class 1)

For our youngest children it will usually be:

- Reading with parents or carers
- Games or activities to practice literacy, maths or other skills
- Contributions of home activities to add to your child's Learning Journal



### Home learning in Key Stage 1 (Class 2)

Recommended time spent on task: 20 - 30 mins

- It is expected that your child will read to an adult at home every day.
- Ideally your child will be read to most days to foster a love of language and stimulate their imagination
- Most weeks your child will be given an opportunity to develop or consolidate some aspect of learning they have been enjoying in class: this could be research based and often creative.

### Home learning in Key Stage 2 (Classes 3 & 4)

Recommended time spent on each task: 30 - 45 mins

#### Will include

- **Daily practice of times tables** and related divisions up to  $12 \times 12$
- **Daily reading** - this may be independent or with an adult. **Your child will gain tremendous pleasure and enormous benefit from being read to right through primary school.**

#### Might include

- Preparing a presentation to the class
- Finding out information
- Designing or making something
- Trying out a simple scientific experiment
- Solving problems
- Completing literacy, maths, science or other learning
- In Y6 children may also be set homework that supports their SATs preparation.

### Special Educational Needs

It is important that if your child has any Special Educational needs they are set homework which is appropriate, which does not demand too much or too little of them. The home learning set may be in liaison with the class teacher, the SENCO and the parents if necessary. The home learning tasks, as for all children, should provide opportunities for the pupils to succeed and to be challenged.