

**ST. RONAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**HOMEWORK POLICY - AUGUST 2010 (UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2013)**

**What are the aims of this policy?**

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

**What is the purpose of homework?**

Homework at St. Ronan's will provide the following experiences as pupils progress from P.1-P.7:

- To help children to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- Provide challenge and enjoyment in a range of tasks.
- Provide opportunities for personalisation and choice in learning.
- Provide opportunities for parental involvement and support in learning.
- Encourage more responsibility for their own learning.
- Create channels for home-school links.
- Help develop skills in organisation and management of their time.
- Practise and build on what they have learned at school through relevant tasks for broader, deeper learning.
- Help develop skills in Literacy and Numeracy as well as other subject areas and as part of Interdisciplinary learning.
- Help develop research skills (e.g. using libraries, reference books and safe use of the Internet).

Homework will be planned by the Class Teacher on a termly and week to week basis and will follow a broadly standard structure. However, the nature of learning and teaching means that the type of homework may be varied from time to time, with spontaneous tasks sometimes being given. Homework will be seen as an integral part of the curriculum, feeding into class work or reinforcing work done in school. A place will also be provided for personal research running parallel to class work.

**What is the role of the school?**

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for children by consistently following this policy.
- To provide children with reading records (P1-3) and homework jotters (P.3-7)
- To be aware of particular circumstances of children and families
- To recognise that, while homework is important, that children need time out of school to develop other interests, attend clubs and to play

**What is the role of the teacher?**

- To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriately differentiated to the needs of the child in line with the Purposes of Homework (above).
- To share the yearly structure of homework with parents in the Class Homework Letter & Agreement. (Appendix A).
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To mark and give feedback about homework and celebrate success.
- To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.
- To keep a record of homework tasks not completed. (Appendix B)
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.

### What is the role of the parent?

- To support the child in completing homework.
- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.
- To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.
- To sign all homework tasks completed to a satisfactory standard.
- All parents are offered guidance from class teacher at Meet the Teacher event and are asked to sign a Homework Agreement (Appendix A) indicating their commitment to supporting the Homework Policy.

### What is the role of the child?

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework tasks.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To hand the homework in on time.
- To take on board any feedback about homework.
- All pupils are given guidance from the Class Teacher on a weekly basis and are asked to sign a Homework Agreement (Appendix A) indicating their commitment to supporting the Homework Policy.

### What is the frequency of homework?

Homework will increase gradually from Primary 1 through to Primary 7:

Primary 1	No more than 10 minutes per day	Please note that this is a guide only. Sometimes homework will take less time and on other occasions it may take a bit longer depending upon the task. The aim is to strike a balance across the week or period of time given for a task.
Primary 2	No more than 10 minutes per day	
Primary 3	No more than 15 minutes per day	
Primary 4	No more than 15 minutes per day	
Primary 5	No more than 20 minutes per day	
Primary 6	No more than 25 minutes per day	
Primary 7	No more than 30 minutes per day	

Tasks will be issued four days - Monday-Thursday - with work for completion over a weekend being only ever associated with longer term assignments. Homework will not be given over holidays of a week or longer.

### How can parents find out more information about homework?

- Each Class Teacher will inform the parents about routines and types of homework within each class at the 'meet the teacher' evening held at the beginning of the session.
- Each Class Teacher will issue a homework plan, detailing the **regular** class homework. (Please be aware that spontaneous homework may also be given from time to time). (Appendix
- If parents need advice on how to support their children with homework then they can make an appointment to talk to the Class Teacher

### Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?

- Only when a child has frequently failed to complete attainable tasks due to lack of application should unfinished work go home
- If the child is finding they have too much work, or tasks are taking too long, then parents should speak to the child's Class Teacher.

### What about children who don't complete homework?

- The expectation is that children will complete homework.
- Teachers will keep records of children who do not complete homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis.
- If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to parents to find out why.

- Where a pupil has not completed a set task on three occasions, a letter will be sent to parents asking for their continued support. This includes homework that is consistently not handed in on time. (Appendix C)
- Teachers will aim to be flexible and sensitive when notified home circumstances mean that the completion of homework is difficult or impossible

### **How will the homework be marked?**

Teachers will mark children's homework in a variety of ways. Generally the work will be ticked or initialled by the teacher to show they have marked it. Sometimes a piece of work is marked in detail and comments about future progress are added to the work. On other occasions the work may be marked orally with the child or the class and there will not be evidence from the teacher in the child's book.

**\* Please note that we are currently developing the homework guides for parents and pupils.**

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix A	Class homework letter and Agreement
Appendix B	Class record of homework not completed
Appendix C	Letter following failure to complete homework on three occasions

**CLASS HOMEWORK LETTER & AGREEMENT**

Dear Parent and Pupil

Children learn a great deal at school and you can add to that learning by supporting them at home. For example, showing an interest in their homework and talking to them about it really helps them to learn. With support and encouragement, children find it easier to get into the homework habit, take more responsibility and learn how to organise and manage their time.

In Primary XX, homework will be given as follows:

Task	Day given out	Day brought back	This task should take no more than
Reading			minutes
Spelling			minutes
Numeracy			minutes

P.1-3: Your child will bring home a Reading Record and this should be checked regularly for tasks set and notes from the Teacher. Parents can also use this as a useful way of communicating with the school.

P.3-7: Your child will be issued with a Homework Jotter where tasks will be set and completed. The teacher may also communicate with parents in this jotter and parents may also use this as a way of communicating with the school.

Should you have any concerns regarding Homework, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Roles in completing homework are as follows:

ROLE OF THE PUPIL	ROLE OF THE PARENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure you have everything they need to complete homework tasks.</li> <li>To make sure you understand the tasks that have been set.</li> <li>To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.</li> <li>To hand the homework in on time.</li> <li>To take on board any feedback about homework.</li> <li>To sign the Homework Agreement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support the child in completing homework.</li> <li>To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.</li> <li>To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.</li> <li>To provide the appropriate resources for the child to complete the homework.</li> <li>To sign all homework tasks completed to a satisfactory standard.</li> <li>To sign the Homework Agreement.</li> </ul>
ROLE OF THE TEACHER	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriately differentiated to the needs of the child</li> <li>To share the yearly structure of homework with parents in the Class Homework Letter &amp; Agreement.</li> <li>To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.</li> <li>To mark and give feedback about homework and celebrate success.</li> <li>To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.</li> <li>To keep a record a record of homework tasks not completed.</li> <li>To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.</li> </ul>	

Please note: We are currently developing homework guides for parents and pupils. A copy of our Homework Policy is available from the school office or on our website.

**AGREEMENT:** Please return by XX.XX.XX. I agree to my role in the Homework as described above. Signed,

Pupil	Parent	Teacher
Date:	Date:	Date:



Date:

Dear

I am sorry to have to inform you that \_\_\_\_\_ has not completed the following homework task/s:

TASK	DUE ON

As you know, we are keen to encourage children to complete homework tasks on time and would ask for your support in helping \_\_\_\_\_ to do this and return the work to school by \_\_\_\_\_.

If we can do anything to help \_\_\_\_\_ complete homework tasks or if he / she is having any specific difficulty with the tasks being set, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Your support in this would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Class Teacher  
 Primary \_\_\_\_\_