

Homework Policy

St Mary's Horsforth Catholic Voluntary Academy



"Happy together in God's family,
we love, grow and learn."

Approved by:	Chris Barnes	Date: September 2025
Last reviewed on:	September 2026	
Next review due by:	September 2028	

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors to share this commitment.

St Mary's Horsforth Catholic Voluntary Academy

Homework Policy

Rationale

At St Mary's, we believe that effective education requires a partnership between school, parents and the parish. We believe children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school.

We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Whilst homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in a wide range of out-of-school and extra-curricular activities.

We believe children develop their skills, interests and talents to the fullest when they are encouraged to dive headfirst into the experiences and opportunities that are available to them.

The Purpose of Homework

We believe that a strong partnership between school and home is at the heart of successful education. Homework is an important way of establishing and developing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.

Homework plays an important role in reinforcing learning that has taken place in school. It provides pupils with opportunities to practise key skills, develop independence, and strengthen their understanding of concepts taught in class.

Homework should be meaningful, achievable, and appropriate to a child's age and stage of development.

Types of Homework

Reception

- Reading

Year 1 and Year 2

- Reading: independent, shared or paired reading, with possible suggestions to reinforce comprehension and understanding of texts as children progress through school. Parents are asked to record in the children's reading records when they have read at home.
- Times Table Champion from Year 2 upwards – children have weekly times table and division facts to learn that are then tested within class as part of our Times Table Champion program.
- Number Bonds Champion from Year 1 – children have weekly number bonds to learn that are then tested within class as part of our Number Bonds Champion program.
- Spellings linked to phonics on a weekly basis.
- Access to online platforms which support learning, such as Purple Mash and Times Table Rock Stars. (TTRS)

Year 3 – Year 6

- Reading: independent, shared or paired reading, with possible suggestions to reinforce comprehension and understanding of texts as children progress through school. Parents are asked to record in the children's reading records when they have read at home.
- Times Table Champion from Year 2 upwards – children have weekly times table and division facts to learn that are then tested within class as part of our Times Table Champion program.
- CGP books for comprehension, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling linked to current work. This is allocated weekly by the class teacher.

- Weekly spellings and vocabulary development: learning sounds and spellings, and activities to apply taught spelling rules and patterns. From Year 3 upwards children have access to Spelling Shed to practice their spellings online.
- Access to online platforms which support learning, such as Purple Mash and Times Table Rock Stars. (TTRS)
- Learning by Question (LBQ) allocated by the class teacher.

The Role of School

Each class teacher will:

- Ensure homework is manageable for children and parents.
- Ensure homework tasks are meaningful and linked to current class based work.
- Ensure homework meets the individual needs of the children. The nature, type and amount of homework will vary according to the age and ability of the pupil.
- Ensure homework is consistently given.
- Provide additional support to parents who require it.
- Make recommendations for additional work, if requested.

The Role of Parents

At St Mary's, we recognise the importance of developing a sound partnership between parents and children with reference to children's learning. Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework.
- Read regularly with children and return books and reading records on the required day.
- Encourage children to access TTRS to practice their times tables.
- Practice spellings on a regular basis.
- Make it clear to children that they value homework and support the school in how it can help their learning.
- Encourage children and praise them when they have completed homework.
- Contact the class teacher if they are unsure of homework expectations or if they require any additional support or recommendations.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

Homework is set 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 can contribute in a positive way.

Equal Opportunities

All teaching and support staff at St Mary's Catholic Primary School are responsible for ensuring that all pupils, irrespective of gender, ability, ethnic origin and social circumstances, have access to the whole curriculum and make the greatest possible progress. All children have equal access to homework.