

Learning and growing together, rooted in Christ

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary School



Homework Policy

Introduction

At OLW, we believe that homework plays a key role in a child's education and can enhance development of study habits (such as self-discipline, confidence, independence and motivation) as they move through phases of education. We recognise that parents are valuable partners in the education of our pupils and they should be encouraged to support furthering their child's learning to beyond the school day. Home-school learning should be valued and pupils will be afforded the chance to consolidate and extend their understanding of work covered in the classroom. Homework should be planned and meaningful with children given opportunities to foster a sense of achievement; this will be recognised and praised by teachers. Homework can play a positive role in improving attainment and educational outcomes for children. Homework should be focused and time limited. It should not prevent children from partaking in out-of-school clubs and organisations. We know that taking part in these activities outside of school can also play a pivotal role in a child's development and homework should not detract from those opportunities.

We feel passionately that regular reading at home, especially with parents, is essential throughout primary school and parents will be encouraged to read with and to their child as a regular part of the work children do at home. Reading together not only strengthens a child's language skills but also promotes enjoyment and fosters a love of reading.

Aims of the homework policy

- To ensure that there is a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- To ensure homework promotes our Catholic teachings, values and virtues.
- To ensure that homework is an extension of learning which has taken place in the classroom.
- To ensure progression towards children taking an individual responsibility for completing their homework – developing independence as they go through the school.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure children are given the opportunity to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences with their parents/carers.
- To ensure further opportunities are provided for our children to experience a broad and balanced curriculum which fosters their enthusiasm, develops curiosity and enables all children to reach their potential.

To achieve this, all teaching staff, children, parents, and governors should work together to promote our school mission statement, '*Learning and Growing Together, Rooted in Christ*'.

The purpose of homework at OLW

All homework is to be based on pupils knowing more, remembering more and doing more.

- To extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom.
- To provide children with opportunities to consolidate taught knowledge and be fluent in their learning.
- To provide children with opportunities to maintain their knowledge so it is retrievable at a later time.
- To provide children with opportunities to generalise their learning so knowledge can be applied to different situations.
- To provide children the opportunity to access pre-teaching. This is where children are exposed to a learning concept prior to teaching in school.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to progress to becoming more independent learners.

Teachers are asked to:

- Set weekly homework.
- Provide clear instructions for children to complete homework.
- Ensure homework tasks are accessible for all.
- Provide feedback in a timely manner. This could be by providing a mark scheme for children/parents to self-mark homework where appropriate, marking together in class or written/verbal feedback to the children.
- Designate time each week to respond to homework in school.

Parents are asked to:

- Encourage their children to complete homework tasks set.
- Praise the value of homework to their children.
- Provide a learning environment where children can focus on tasks without distractions. Parents may also choose to create a homework routine.
- Provide support with learning where appropriate.
- Give their children the opportunity to verbalise/articulate and talk about their learning.
- To contact teachers (or encourage their children to) if their child needs extra support with homework or if the homework is late/incomplete.
- Ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time.
- Sign and date homework to show it is a true reflection of your child's best effort.

Children are asked to:

- Always try their best to complete all of their homework to the best of their ability.
- Listen carefully to instructions when given by teachers.
- If stuck, ask a parent to help them.
- Communicate with teachers if even with parental help, they are still unsure.
- Ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time.

What sort of homework should children expect?

The amount and nature of homework will change as children progress through the school and will look slightly differently in each phase. It should be tailored to and reflect the child's age and ability. As children get older, the focus on completing homework independently should increase. In Upper Phase, the quantity and expectations of homework should prepare children for secondary school. Homework will always aim

Early Phase

Nursery

- Sharing a book
- Home learning task as appropriate based on learning in Nursery

Reception

- Daily reading with an adult.
- Phonics learning activity to consolidate sound(s) taught in school.
- Home challenge activity as appropriate throughout a learning theme

Lower Phase

- Daily reading with an adult.
- Phonics learning activity to consolidate sound(s) taught in school.
- English consolidation task

- Practice spelling rule
- Maths consolidation task
- A termly creative project

Middle Phase

- Reading at least one book with an adult over a week.
- English consolidation task
- Practise spelling rule
- Maths consolidation task
- Daily times tables practise
- A termly creative project

Upper Phase

- Read school reading book for 10 minutes 5 times a week – once to an adult.
- English consolidation task
- Practise spelling rule
- Maths consolidation task
- Daily times tables practise
- A termly creative project

Expectation of homework

All homework will be handed out and collected on a Friday. There is a minimum expectation at OLW that all children will at least attempt to complete their homework to the best of their ability. Where support is needed, children (parents if younger) are invited and encouraged to approach their class teacher throughout the week to ask for further help. Dates for handing in homework will be made explicit by the teacher and clearly marked on the homework. All homework will have a completion period of 1 week as a minimum. Children are expected to complete homework to same standard as their work at school.

Incomplete homework

We understand that there may be instances where children forget their homework. In this instance, children will be expected to bring their completed homework the next day. When homework is not completed and returned, teachers will talk to children and parents to investigate the barriers to homework and work together to support home learning

Pupils with SEND

All children are entitled to homework. This includes our children with special educational needs. When providing homework for our children with SEND, we must take careful consideration in ensuring the right type and amount of homework given is appropriate. This should be closely monitored by the class teacher and be in cooperation with parents and the school SENCO. Teachers are responsible for managing expectations of homework completion for their children with SEND on an individual basis which will be communicated to the child and their parents. Some children with SEND may benefit from their own, bespoke homework which differs from the rest of the class. However, where possible, homework for children with SEND should be closely matched and as similar as possible to their peers.

How parents can further support their children?

Children may opt to provide further learning opportunities for their children at home. These tasks may include:

- Talking to your child about their learning each day
- A trip to a museum or gallery
- Playing board or card games together

- Baking or cooking with your child
- Providing opportunities for arts and crafts
- Watching programmes or YouTube videos which provide educational knowledge
- Getting outdoors
- Visiting the local library

Monitoring of OLW Homework Policy

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed if and when the need arises. Staff, child and parental views may be gathered through questionnaires.