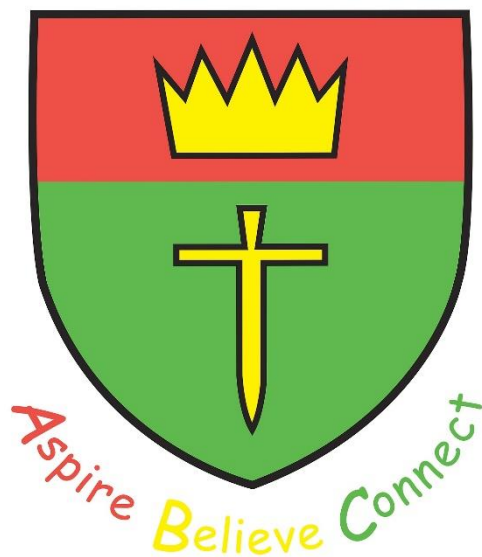


# St Oswald's CE VA Primary School



## Homework Policy

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## Homework Policy:

Principles and Implementation

Agreed by governors: March 2022

Implementation date: March 2022

Review date: March 2024

### Ethos and Values Statement



### Background

Our Ethos and Values Statement is an easy to understand model of religious education in St Oswald's. Children in our school know that love is the most important value of all, in line with the new command that Jesus gave us to love one another, which is why this is placed above all in our statement.

### Mission Statement

Sitting below love lies our school's mission statement: *Aspire, Believe, Connect*. As easy as A, B, C, this statement is easy to remember and most importantly represents what we want our children to do in every aspect of their education and lives.

## Core Christian Values

The mission statement is underpinned by six core Christian values that each link to one aspect of *Aspire, Believe, Connect*. As children aspire to be the best they can be in every way, they will grow in wisdom. In order to believe in themselves and develop their own beliefs about the world around them, our children are taught about the importance of trust and strength on their journey. We also believe in the values of peace and friendship in helping us to connect with those around us.

## Homework and our Ethos



At St Oswald's, we promote an enriched, balanced and broad curriculum through our core and foundation topics. We encourage all children to learn in a safe and happy environment. As a school we aim to involve parents with their children's learning and with the New National Curriculum 2014. As a school we encourage parents and carers to take an active role in their children's homework and stimulate parents and carers to work alongside their children. As a whole we aim to give all children the same opportunities to develop their learning.

At St Oswald's our schemes of work reflect the content and challenge of the curriculum. Teachers have received training in key areas of curriculum change and are ready to provide outstanding curriculum provision. The curriculum is taught with the consideration of the needs of all learners. Our curriculum is be exciting and will inspire children to nurture a passion for learning.

## Aims

- Ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- Ensure progression towards independence and meeting age related objectives
- Ensure the needs of the individual are taken into account
- Ensure that parents/carers understand our expectations of them
- Improve the quality of learning experiences offered to the children
- Extend and support learning
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work in partnership
- Provide opportunities for children and parents to share learning experiences
- Encourage children to develop long term strategies for future needs
- Ensure our children by the end of Year Six are secondary ready.

## Non-negotiables

- The table below gives a summary of homework for children.

Year Group	Literacy	Maths	Other
Reception	<b><u>Full year</u></b> Weekly Phonics & tricky word sticker in homework book Reading	<b><u>Summer term</u></b> Weekly content consolidation on Google Classroom	<b><u>During autumn &amp; spring term</u></b> Story sacks: A lovely bag just for your child, jam packed with games and activities to enjoy around some amazing children's stories! Our story sacks cover all of the areas of learning you need and can be used at home with your family.  <b><u>Summer term</u></b> Talk homework on Google Classroom

Year Group	English	Maths	Other
1	Weekly Phonics/Spellings Reading	Weekly content consolidation Summer term: Times Tables	Talk Homework
2	Spellings Reading	Times Tables/ Arithmetic	Talk Homework
3	Spellings Reading	Times Tables/ Arithmetic	Talk Homework
4	Spellings Reading	Times Tables/ Arithmetic	Talk Homework
5	Spellings Reading	Times Tables/ Arithmetic	Talk Homework
6	Spelling Reading SAT practice questions <b>*Spring Term alterations will take place, see section below.</b>	Times Tables/ Arithmetic	Talk Homework

For children to make the most progress; reading, spelling and multiplication/division facts need to be practised regularly. All homework will be distributed on a Friday and children will hand this back in on a Wednesday.

Reception children will have their story sack return date indicated on a sticker in their homework book, story sacks may be allocated for longer than one week however a phonics homework update will be allocated weekly.

### **Marking & Feedback**

Homework will be set and fed back, via Google Classrooms, as opposed to homework books. The children will be issued with homework books, however these are for home use and can remain at home, work submitted to be mark - must be done via Google Classroom.

Reception children will use their homework book to record any story sack activities, staff will offer feedback on anything returned within the homework book, in line with the school's marking and feedback policy.

Staff will check for Google Classroom responses and any parent feedback on a Wednesday, once all homework should have been completed, this monitoring will take place on a weekly basis. Ozzie stars will be issued in class, in line with feedback around homework completed.

When marking homework online, the work that is submitted from Y1-Y6 is graded 100 for objective achieved, 50 for progress towards objective and 0 for objective not achieved.

If a child does not submit their homework by the allotted time then this will be marked as incomplete

Spelling tests will still take place the following week, in class, however spellings to learn will be issued via Google Classrooms.

### **Using Google Classroom**

All children will be provided with their login details for Google Classroom as this is a resource that they will use both in school, and out of school, for their homework.

A combination of electronic and written/paper based activities will be used, in line with the non-negotiables table above. Google Classroom assignments may include a web link to a further online activity, or a file which includes a worksheet to be completed within homework books. There is no expectation, or need, for sheets on Google Classroom to be printed.

Once homework is completed on Google Classroom, it must be submitted. If parents/children do not click the 'submit' button when signing/uploading pictures it falls into a 'missing' section rather than when marking, as opposed to completed.

### **Y6 Spring Term Alterations**

During spring term, we ask the children to bring their homework books in (as well as upload to Google Classroom) so that they can physically mark their own books using the answer sheets staff keep in school. This means that staff don't provide feedback online during this term and do so verbally, in collaboration with the children, in school.

### **Reading**

Reading must be carried out a minimum of three times per week and the reading diary MUST be signed by a parent or the reading task will be deemed as one

missed homework. Children must read their school reading book once during the week but the other two reading sessions can be for the child's enjoyment and therefore they can choose a book, comic, newspaper article, website, leaflet etc. of their choice. We would not expect considerable amounts to be written just a simple comment as to how the child has read or a signature will suffice if the parent/carer does not wish to make a comment. Key Stage Two Children can write the comment themselves (again encouraging independence) however this still must be signed by a parent/carer. Reading Records are to be returned to school each day however reading will be checked off on a Friday by a member of staff in line with the school's reading non-negotiables.

Key stage one children will have their weekly reading books allocated using online eBooks due to recent changeover to a new reading scheme. This is an interim measure and additional books will be supplemented annually to allow physical paper copies of books to return home in due course.

To demonstrate the checking of a week, reading diaries to be highlighted across at the end of the week and signed by the checking staff member. This staff member will also mark the number of reads cited within the diary, e.g. '3x read'. In support of this, we kindly ask parents to ensure that reads are dated to support staff in checking for the weekly coverage.

Reading must be marked into reading diary each week and not cited on Google Classroom, Google Classroom will not be checked for reading.

### **Spellings**

Spellings will be given out on a weekly basis and differentiated with regards to each child's ability. There will be a minimum of six spellings and a maximum of 20 as the children progress through the school. The children will be tested on their spellings each week. Evidence of this homework being completed will go towards their weekly monitoring. A signature (typed name) from the parent/carer will indicate that this has been completed. The 'signature' should just be added to the comment box within the spellings assignment.

Alternatively, you can upload a photo of any spellings practise at home and this will also evidence completion.

From Year 2-6, each year group follow the HeadStart Primary Spelling. As part of their weekly spellings children will receive a practice sheet in which they will have the opportunity to practice writing their spellings four times. In addition

to this, children from Year 2 - 6 will receive an activity sheet. Year 1 children will access spellings which are in line with their weekly phonics teaching and tricky words accessed within the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised teaching. This will allow children the opportunity to complete tasks associated with termly spellings. These tasks will range from; applying words into sentences, looking at spelling rules, applying the correct word into sentences and matching words to the correct dictionary definition.

**Practice Sheet**  
Term 1 Set 1 Week 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Spelling patterns adding suffixes to words of more than one syllable, **extension**, word list

I preferred listening to the music wearing headphones.

Spellings	Write	Write	Cover and write	Cover and write
prefer				
preferring				
preferred				
listen				
listening				
listened				
forbid				
forbidden				
address				
answer				

Total /10

**Activity Sheet**  
Term 1 Set 1 Week 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Write your own sentences using the words in the boxes.

breath

answer

build

appear

accident

arrive

It should be noted that some children may have very closely tailored spellings which could be smaller in amount of differing in terms of being more phonics based, this is determined through assessment data and individual need.

Where spellings are completed in class, each class will have a 'spellings' folder within SeeSaw. Following the completion of the spelling test and marking, your child will photograph their test and upload this into their SeeSaw folder to enable you to see their spelling score at home too!

## Phonics

Reception and Year One children will not receive spellings at first however, may as they progress through the year. The children will initially receive a phonics activity based upon the sounds they have been learning. Phonics is really important to perfect in the early stages of primary school as it is the building blocks to reading, writing and spelling.

Reception parents and carers will be given extensive phonics and reading support through a parental support booklet issued within the homework wallet.

## Talk Homework

Talk homework will form part of the weekly homework for all children within years 1-6 and reception within summer term. There will be a main discussion point or question set, with some points. This homework task only requires a



conversation between yourself and your child around the topic. Your child may choose to add some extra work around this and we would love to see this, if so. A signature (typed name) from the parent/carer will indicate that this has been completed, if your child has completed some additional work around this, we would love to see photos uploaded and this would also suffice as acknowledgement of completion. The 'signature' should just be added to the comment box within the talk homework assignment.

### **Times Tables and Arithmetic**

From Year 1 upwards children will receive maths homework on a weekly basis. Times tables sheets, including speedy tables, can be used as a task, but equally, class teachers may choose to distribute arithmetic sheets to provide children with consolidation opportunities for formal written methods.

In Key Stage 1, and reception within summer term, children will receive arithmetic/weekly consolidation homework to revisit opportunities provided in class. Activities will support the building of times tables and class based skills.

From years 1 to year 6, class teachers may also choose to set maths homework using Times Tables Rockstars. Like with spelling, a parent/carer should type into the comments box within the maths work to evidence that their child has accessed TTRS at home during that particular week.

### **Homework Reward System**

Teachers will reward excellence and effort in homework by implementing our homework rewards system 'Homeworkopoly'. Homeworkopoly is a fun way to give our children extra incentives to do their homework. In order for a child to play the game, he or she must complete each element (outlined above within non-negotiables) of their homework by the Friday of each week. Once a child has done this, they are allowed to roll a dice and move around the game board.

Throughout the year, day by day we will keep the game going. Alike monopoly, as the children move around the board they will land on a range of special spaces which includes sticker spots, chance cards, brain benders and mystery prizes!

Children who hand in all homework in a term will be awarded with a homework reward!

### **Difficulties with Homework**

Children should be encouraged to discuss any problems they are having with their teacher. It is not acceptable for children to struggle excessively, causing

upset at home. Obtaining parental support is of paramount importance. Hence why we give the children five nights (including a weekend) to complete their homework so they have ample time to seek adult support at school if needed. Any feedback you could give regarding homework would be greatly appreciated.

A Homework Club will be provided on a Monday lunchtime (within our time out room) if needed for children who wish to do some of their homework at school and support will be provided. Unfinished or missing work will need to be completed during lunchtimes. **We kindly ask that you notify staff on the Monday prior to the Wednesday deadline that your child needs to attend homework club.** Children who need some support in homework club will not be penalised in any way for this and this will still class as completed homework. Class based homework club staff would support the children in submitting this via Google Classroom. The 'Non-negotiables' section of this policy outlines the elements of homework your child receives each week, missing one element of this will be deemed as one missed homework and if your child misses three elements, then they will be unable to access our termly homework reward.

If a child does not complete their homework on two occasions, a letter will be sent to parents regarding a meeting with the class teacher in the first instance and if this continues then with the Key Stage Leader. This letter acts as a prompt, prior to three pieces of work being missed, as we want as many children to access the homework reward, as possible. **Please note any one aspect of the weekly homework (i.e. talk, reading, spellings, tables, phonics) being incomplete counts as one of the three occasions.**

If your child has a week where none of their homework is complete and therefore they have already missed more than three elements, a telephone call or discussion will promptly take place, due to the fact that the homework letter prompt would be unsuitable. During this discussion a plan will be made to deal with this missed week and hopefully allow the children to get back on track and work towards the reward still.

Homework will:

- Increase as children get older
- Be interesting and relevant to the class work
- Be predominately based on basic skills
- Be encouraged by a positive approach
- Encourage parents to support their children's work by providing where possible a quiet, undisturbed environment

- Be marked by the class teacher/team member if handed in on time
- Not necessarily be written work
- Consolidate and build upon any previous learning

Following these guidelines will help children to develop independence, realise their full potential and prepare them for the next stage in their education.

Although there is no legal requirement to have a Homework Policy, the guidelines have been drawn up in line with recommendations.

### **Role of Stakeholders in Policy**

All stakeholders have a role to play in this policy. Parents are encouraged to support learning at home by encouraging children to show develop positive attitudes towards their homework.