

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

### *Rationale*

St. Andrew's believes that homework is an essential part of all pupils' education. Effective homework gives them the opportunity to extend and consolidate work experienced during lesson time, it encourages them to produce creative, reflective and investigative work independent of the teacher; it also develops skills in personal organisation and a sense of responsibility.

### *What do we mean by homework?*

At St. Andrew's we define 'homework' widely to mean any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time without the guidance of teachers. It is usually done with the support of parents or carers and is an opportunity for adults, other than teachers, to become active partners in supporting learning.

Homework should be enjoyable for the pupil, stimulate imagination and creativity, as well as reinforcing what is taught in the classroom. Pupils generally enjoy continuing activities, sharing their experiences and ideas as well as bringing work started at home back into school.

### *Why is homework important?*

There is no legal requirement for schools to provide a set amount of homework for school children but we feel it is a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement and every student sees that the school and home are working together in a partnership to provide support and encouragement. It also enables the school to offer some pastoral support beyond the school day.

Homework provides a means for pupils:

- To consolidate and reinforce what is learnt in the classroom;
- To become independent and curious learners;
- To develop good study habits;
- To develop skills in personal organisation and a sense of responsibility;
- To prepare for the next stage of education.

### *How can we support teaching and learning through homework?*

Class teachers have the responsibility to see that homework is completed. Homework also needs to be:

- Specific and differentiated for students at different ages;
- Appropriate for the level of ability that the pupil is working at;
- Regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure that it is manageable by both student and staff;
- Marked according to the school's marking policy
- Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised
- Supported by parents and carers.

We follow the Government Guidelines on recommended periods of time to be spent on homework at different Key Stages.

Years 1 & 2	1 hour per week
Years 3 & 4	1 ½ hours per week
Years 5 & 6	30 mins. per day.

How can parents and carers support student's learning through homework?

The support of parents and carers is seen as essential. They assist in many ways. For example, they are asked to:

- Make it clear to pupils how much they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
- Praise and encourage pupils when they take pride in their homework;
- Provide a peaceful and comfortable place, free from distractions, where students can concentrate. If this is difficult, parents can contact staff for support;
- Encourage pupils

of all ages to read as much and as widely as possible.

### **Guidelines:**

Homework should not be a burden on a child or the parents and as such it is important to start a regular slot of time for these activities early in their school life to encourage the development of useful skills and learning.

These sessions are not a punishment and encouragement needs to be the key word. If there are any issues that arise during the course of completing any work sent home, eg. Uncertainties of intended outcome or confusion on what has to be achieved, please speak to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. This avoids any unnecessary uncertainties and anxiety.

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