Homework Policy

Mission Statement:

'In St Margaret Mary's School
We welcome everyone into our community
In order to live, love and learn
Together in the light and example of the life of Christ.'

Coordinator: Mrs J Logue

'In St Margaret Mary School we value the wellbeing of all Stakeholders.'

Homework is valuable for the following reasons:

1. It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
2. It can allow pupils to develop the practice of working on their own without the constant presence of the teacher or other pupils on the one hand and the external discipline of the timetable, bells etc. on the other. This way of working is vital at the later stages of secondary education and after.
3. Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds.
4. It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
5. It can allow pupils to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
6. It can involve parents and others in the pupils' work for their mutual benefit.
7. It can give opportunities for long term research and other work.
8. It can form an important part of the pupil's notes.
9. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules.
10. It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at Secondary School.

THE NATURE OF THE HOMEWORK.

We have a system whereby the class teacher sets homework that will be covered across the core curriculum. The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, different classes and topics of study.

We use Google Classroom to set homework weekly for the children across all year groups. Parents can request that homework is sent home in paper form and some pieces (e.g.) handwriting will also be sent this way.

Online homework is set for Y6 (SATs companion Programme) is set up for each pupil to assist them in their revision for the end of Key Stage Tests.

Homework is set for completion every Monday (unless otherwise stated on Google Classroom instructions) and set every Wednesday. Children have reading books along with weekly spellings which are tested in spelling books at home. Children are also tested half termly on Common Exception Words and times table recall relevant to their year/ability. Children take home a book from the library weekly and can take home an extra class library book if they so wish.

Teachers will set one piece of English and one piece of Mathematics work per week. During the last week of term, Teachers will send Topic and RE homework. Spanish and retrieval work will also be sent throughout the term where required. Teachers may also request that children practise a specific times table on Times Table Rock Stars at home.

In the early years reading books are taken home as a matter of course. Pupils ‘read’ at home and/or practise key words or sounds with their family. Weekly spellings can be given and possibly number bonds or letter/number formation. Parents are advised to read widely at home by visiting the library.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL HELP PUPILS ORGANISE THEIR HOMEWORK?

a) Work is set on Google Classroom, parents can work on the worksheets at home electronically and then upload them back to teacher, alternatively the work can be printed.
b) We try to make sure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class and parents.
c) We aim to mark or respond to homework regularly, and in a way that is helpful to pupils. We aim also to build on existing skills and knowledge.

HOW CAN PARENTS OR GUARDIANS HELP WITH HOMEWORK?

a) Check that homework details are completed and uploaded.
b) Help your child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
c) Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
d) Take a positive and active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
e) Let us know if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve. Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or is finding it too easy or too difficult. Contact the class teacher in the first instance who will be glad to help.

Policy to be reviewed September 2027