



Saint Pierre School,
16 Leigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LE

Homework Policy

Policy Owner (Position)	Last Updated By (Name)	Date of Last Review	Date Next Review Due
Deputy Head	Poppy Read	September 2024	September 2026
Read in Conjunction with: Curriculum Policy			

Saint Pierre School Homework Policy

What is Homework?

By definition, any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside of lesson time either on their own, supported by parents or at Homework Club.

This is a whole school policy catered for the difference of approach between the age groups where appropriate.

The Purpose of Homework

At Saint Pierre School, we believe that Homework has significant value as it:-

- Supports and reinforces work covered in lessons.
- Gives children the opportunity to practise core skills which will feed into their learning at school and aid their development.
- Extends existing knowledge.
- Develops skills of independent learning, encouraging pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own.
- Starts to build a routine of study (work ethic) for successful lifelong learning.
- Challenges the independent learner.
- Gives extra opportunity to prepare for tests and examinations, including external examinations – 11+.
- Gives opportunity to involve parents in learning.

Implementation

Each pupil in Year 1 – Year 6 has a Homework Diary which pupils, if capable, carefully write the details of the homework set, including when it is due to be done. Children may need some help to complete this from the teacher / teaching assistant. Homework Diaries should be in school every day to ensure homework is successfully written in. If more details are needed for homework then an additional sheet may be stuck into the diary with the information on or a comment such as 'see homework book for more detail' may be written with the additional information in the homework book.

Homework Diaries should be counter-signed by teachers once a week in addition to being counter-signed by parents when the child has completed work as well as at the end of the

week. Homework Diaries should be used as an effective means of communication and should always be available when homework is handed out.

Homework Records

Staff will keep an accurate record of when homework has and has not been completed. Each class has a record sheet so teachers who teach specific subject can record who has not completed the homework or who was absent at the time of setting it. This way we can monitor those who are not completing the work and ensure this is followed up.

Content of Homework

Homework may consist of:

- Completing a task started in class.
- Learning facts / spellings / vocabulary.
- Reading a specific passage in preparation for the next day's work.
- Preparing for a test / examination.
- Reviewing previous areas of concern / difficulty.
- Conducting research.
- Educational games / quizzes (these may also be set on the computer).
- Practising core skills such as times tables or phonics.
- Continuation of project / artwork.
- Preparing a presentation.
- Computing lesson objective focus task.
- Reading.
- Cross-curricular practical tasks relating to the current topic.

Homework may not necessarily always be in a written format but this does not lessen its importance. Homework tasks, as with all written work produced in the classroom, should be of a high standard and will usually be completed in the homework book (with the exception of Years 6 which will use the appropriate exercise book). This gives parents in Years R- 5 to keep track of the work that has been assigned and in Years 6 gives the opportunity to view what has been completed in class and the feedback of previously completed work which will identify areas to be improved, if any. This also gives children in Year 6 the opportunity to prepare for secondary school. If the homework task is to complete a piece of classwork, then the appropriate class book is taken home and brought back the next day.

Children will also have a spelling/phonics book in which they will use for both homework and lesson work; this is to come into school every day. There will be an additional test book for spellings which will be kept in school to ensure the progress can be monitored.

Homework should be completed by the child but parental involvement in terms of positive encouragement and some level of monitoring the child's work is certainly desirable (especially where a project or cross-curricular practical task is given). Parents, as advised in the Curriculum Guides, should inform the teacher if homework is too easy / difficult / time consuming. This feedback is essential and certainly most welcome.

If your child's homework is taking much longer than it should, please ask your child to stop and communicate this to the teacher concerned via the Homework Diary, a note next to the piece of homework concerned or in an email directly to the teacher. As long as your child has worked effectively for the time suggested in the Curriculum Guide or this policy, then that is fine. Sometimes homework may take a little less time than usual and sometimes an extra 10 minutes or so to complete a task to a very high standard should be encouraged.

Organisation of Homework

Whilst there may be an occasional exception, homework is given in line with your child's Homework Timetable which is at the bottom of their timetable which they will receive at the start of the year (or as changes occur). Typically homework will be given a deadline a week later (unless it is a completion of a class task or needed for a lesson that week). 11+ homework may vary with deadlines and your child should take care in recording the deadline for these.

Non-Completion of Homework

We are more than happy to accept valid reasons for tardiness of homework and we will allow a day's grace. We would certainly not want homework to spoil or get in the way of an important family event / outing. However, this does not mean that homework can be ignored. Homework that is set will need to be completed unless your child is absent from school for a prolonged period of time. In an ideal world, a child will take responsibility for their homework and could even use break / lunch times to get homework done to leave their evening clear for family time. A register of incomplete homework will be kept by the teacher setting the homework and children will be made to miss breaks to get homework up to date. Persistent 'offenders' will have the issue discussed with parents.

Parents' Role In Homework

- Please support your child with the amount of support depending on your child's age and ability.
- Encouragement to finish work and meet deadlines.
- A note to the teacher should difficulties arise or extra help given.

Family Time

We know that it is crucial that you and your child enjoy quality family time in the evenings and on weekends and that, should you decide, your child should be free to pursue their own leisure activities outside school. These all contribute to the development of the whole child and these are recognised as valuable learning and social experiences.

Homework Holiday

To allow some 'play' in the system, there will be a Homework Holiday day and only reading homework will be set. The homework Holiday day will be decided by the class teacher and will work around the timetable. This, accompanied with a, 'day's grace', should allow your child to complete all homework to a high standard without impinging on important family time and events. We expect your child to find a way forward to complete homework successfully rather than come into school with excuses.

Every Day

Throughout the school, reading every day is seen as a vital aspect of Homework and, given its significant value in all areas of the curriculum, we highly recommend that pupils continue to read on a nightly basis both in term time and during the holidays. There is no better way to gain knowledge, a deeper understanding of the subjects studied at Saint Pierre and enjoyment of the world than through reading. Reading does not need to be longer than fifteen to twenty minutes unless you wish, when completed daily. Parents are encouraged to discuss the content of the book with their child and use a variety of retrieval and inference questions (included in the reading time). Children of an older age can read independently and record this in their reading records but it is advised that parents take the time to listen and ask questions on a few occasions during the week.

A similar approach is needed with Maths in terms of regular practice of number bonds, multiplication and division facts and a ready recall of all sorts of other mathematical facts – e.g. the names of shapes, angle names and units of measure. Mathematical agility is a vital skill and one that must constantly be practised – in the car, over breakfast etc. children are also required to complete twenty minutes a week of Numbots or Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS).

How Long Should Homework Take?

Reception Homework each weekend should take i.r.o. 40 minutes plus reading if child has already received a reading book.

Year 1 - 15-20 minutes per subject plus at least 10-15 minutes reading daily.

Year 2 - 20-25 minutes per subject plus at least 10-15 minutes reading daily.

Year 3 - 25 minutes per subject plus at least 15 minutes reading daily.

Year 4 - 30 minutes per subject plus at least 15 minutes reading daily.

Year 5/6 - 35 minutes per subject plus at least 20 minutes reading (except for 11+ papers set which will take up to 60 minutes).

As stated above, mental Maths skills and practices should also be an 'ever present'. Children can be set up to 2 pieces of homework per night plus reading.

As the children are transitioning from Reception to Year 1 and the homework increases, children will be given some homework that is mandatory (Maths, Spellings and English (or Phonics) and some that is optional (Humanities, French and Current Affairs).

Holiday Homework

Each child in Years 1 – 6 will be given Holiday homework during the school holidays. The homework pack will follow a similar format to homework set during the school week (apart from the Summer holiday). The pack may be devised with a topical flavour and will aim to both reinforce and refresh what has been covered in English and Mathematics and maybe some cross-curricular activities. Following on from parental input, school has decided that it is important that children should have the opportunity to enjoy holiday time more but will still

need to keep, 'ticking over' ready to pick up from where the children left off before the holiday. Holiday homework may be self-marked by the child on return to school although the subject or class teacher will take a look at the work for assessment purposes.

If A Child Is Absent

If a child is ill, where appropriate we are happy to supply homework / work to be completed at home via email to ensure that a child does not miss out. Requested work needs to be sent to the class or subject teacher and will be provided within 48 hours. Reading books may also be provide if they can be collected and returned by parents.

Communication

If, at any time, parents have questions, concerns or ideas regarding Homework, please do not hesitate to contact us via email, Homework Diaries or through communication with the office. Your first port of call should be your child's class teacher unless it is a specific subject taught by a different teacher.