



Homework Policy

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| Person/s responsible: | The Senior Leadership Team |
| Last update: | Summer 2024 |
| Frequency of Review: | Biennial |
| Date of next review by Governors: | Summer 2025 |

RATIONALE:

Homework is an important part of the curriculum which develops the partnership between home and school. Its purpose is to support pupils to achieve their full potential and encourage independent learning and self-discipline.

In order that our pupils can attain the highest standard (spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic), we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school.

We believe reading to be the single most important activity that any child can do at home to support their learning. Reading should take place on a daily basis irrespective of whether other homework is specified or not.

We believe that homework should support, extend and consolidate the learning covered in the classroom.

AIMS:

Homework should:

- enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic development through differentiated home learning.
- allow pupils to assess, reflect upon and consolidate learning.
- enable pupils to develop the skill, confidence and motivation to study independently at home.
- promote the development of good work habits and self-discipline for the future.
- help parents gain an insight into their child's schoolwork and promote partnership between home and school.
- provide a context for pupil/parent interaction, particularly for the younger children.
- enable children to explore the wide range of resources for learning at home e.g. internet, library, adult knowledge and media.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEWORK

Homework at St. Christopher's The Hall is compulsory. Children and parents should see it as an extension of their schoolwork. Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment and challenging them further.

We also acknowledge the importance of leisure time and extra-curricular activities that play a vital part in a child's growth, development and overall well being. Therefore, the amount of homework set should be manageable and not become overwhelming.

FOCUS

- Our priority at St. Christopher's The Hall is reading, where every year group is encouraged to read at home every day.
- Maths and English homework is our main focus.
- We do not set formal spelling tests. However, we will regularly assess the children on relevant words which are targeted at their level. At times, spelling lists may be sent home to consolidate their learning.
- Times tables will be embedded into lessons where necessary. There will not be formal times tables tests. Children will be set times table work as part of their Maths homework and often on TT Rockstars where relevant (from Year 2).
- The amount of homework given will increase as the pupils move through the school (see grid on page 5 & 6).
- Homework in Years 5 and 6 may vary depending on 11+ exam timings.

EXPECTATIONS

Teachers are expected to:

- provide homework that is relevant to the year group.
- provide clear and precise instructions so that pupils and parents understand the homework given.
- include a variety of tasks to stimulate and engage pupils.
- support pupils to develop their organisational skills with regards to homework.
- set tasks appropriate to the abilities of the pupils. Homework should be differentiated to meet individual needs.
- plan tasks which relate directly to what is being taught and which are built upon in school.
- set explicit time scales for completion and submission.
- mark work as promptly as possible.
- promptly deal with problems or difficulties encountered by children.
- make sure all children complete all homework tasks.

- ensure all children who are off sick are not asked to complete any homework missed (unless necessary).

Pupils are expected to:

- take pride in their work and complete all tasks to the best of their ability.
- hand in homework on time.
- listen carefully to instructions given about homework and to accurately record, in full, details of the task in their planners (Prep school).
- develop the initiative to ask for further guidance, or explanation if needed (Prep school).

Parents are expected to:

- provide their child with a quiet and appropriate place to study effectively.
- maintain a positive attitude towards their child's homework.
- encourage their child to take responsibility for completing their homework on time.
- avoid putting too much pressure on their child.
- appreciate the value of homework for their child.
- ensure their child does not spend more than the allotted time on each subject unless through the child's choice.
- inform the teacher if help has been given. This will help the teacher to differentiate work more effectively.
- sign homework diaries weekly. (Prep school only)
- comment in the reading records regularly.
- contact the teacher about any concerns via their child's planner or email (mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk).

If parents wish to make a formal complaint, they should follow the **Complaints Procedure Policy**.

FURTHER HOMEWORK GUIDANCE

At St. Christopher's The Hall, we appreciate that there may be times when homework is not completed, either fully or at all, on account of extra-curricular activities, family celebrations, tiredness, sickness or anxiety.

In these instances, the class teacher should be notified immediately the following morning either by an email (mail@stchristophersthehall.org.uk) or a note in their planner.. This will avoid any unnecessary upset for the child and allow for positive discussion to take place between the teacher and the child.

If a child persistently does not complete homework, then the teacher will contact the parents to discuss the matter, in order for school and home to work in partnership for the benefit of the child. Homework should ideally not take longer than the timings specified below, unless it is the child's choice.

HOMEWORK ALLOCATIONS AND TIMINGS

| Year group | Weekly Homework Set | Other information |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Reception | Reading: 10/15 minutes per night. | Books changed on a Tuesday and Friday. High frequency words sent home throughout the year. |
| Year 1 | Reading: 15 minutes per night. Spelling task: Weekly Total: 20 minutes a week | Occasional Maths games set where relevant. |
| Year 2 | Reading: 15 minutes per night. Timetables: Weekly Spelling: Weekly Total: 30 minutes a week | Occasional Maths games set where relevant. TT Rockstars set from September. |
| Year 3 | Reading: 15 minutes reading per night plus 5 minutes discussion time with an adult. Timetables and Spelling task: Weekly 1x Maths or English digital task (20 - 30 minutes) Total: 1 hour a week | Term 2 and 3 1 a week - Maths / English This could be a TTRS/Spelling task or something else related to the curriculum. |

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| Year 4 | <p>Reading: 15 minutes reading per night plus 5 minutes discussion time with an adult.</p> <p>1x Maths digital task (20 - 30 minutes) 1x English digital task (20 - 30 minutes)</p> <p>Some homework may be on paper, depending on the task.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total: 1 hour a week</p> | <p>NB: English and Maths may be set on different days, depending on the learning in class.</p> <p>Science and Humanities are set as an extra when appropriate to learning in class.</p> |
| Year 5 | <p>Reading: 20 minutes reading with a weekly focus.</p> <p>2x Maths tasks (Between 20 - 30 minutes each) 2x English tasks (Between 20-30 minutes each) (Occasional topic work, if relevant (30 minutes))</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total: 80 - 120 minutes</p> | <p>NB: English and Maths may be set on different days, depending on the learning in class.</p> <p>Science and Humanities are set as an extra when appropriate to learning in class.</p> |
| Year 6 | <p>Reading 20 minutes per night with a weekly focus.</p> <p>2x Maths tasks (30 minutes each) 2x English tasks (30 minutes each) Topic work may be set throughout the term, on occasion.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total - 2 hours a week</p> | <p>NB: English and Maths may be set on different days, depending on the learning in class.</p> <p>Science and Humanities are set as an extra when appropriate to learning in class.</p> <p>11+ homework may be set if relevant.</p> |