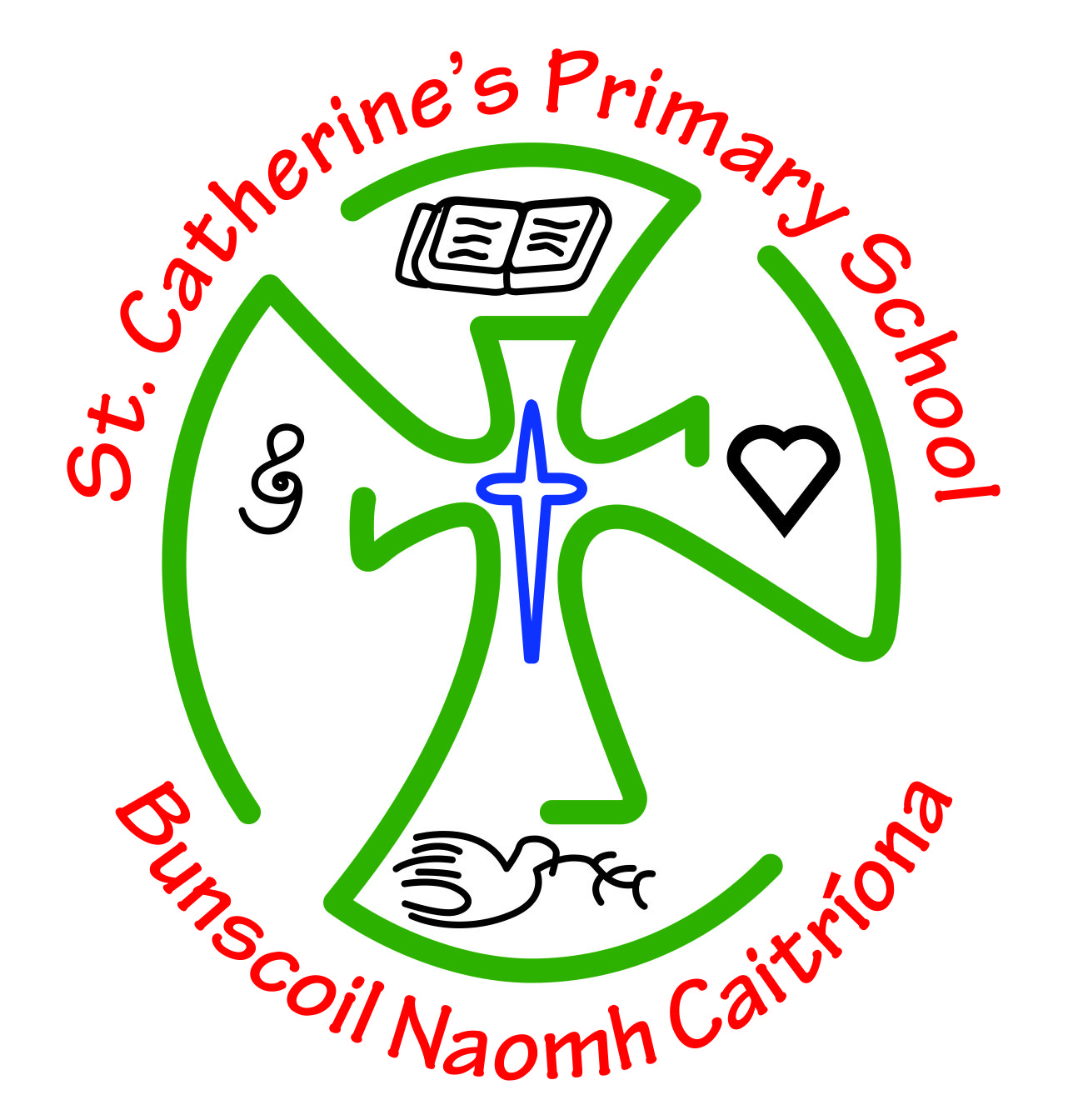
St. Catherine’s Nursery and Primary School

**Homework Policy**

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**Reviewed by Staff : September 2016**

**Presented to B.O.G : September 2016**

**Chair of Board of Governors\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**St. Catherine’s Nursery and Primary School**

**HOMEWORK POLICY**

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**What are the aims of this policy?**

* **To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.**
* **To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.**
* **To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.**
* **To extend and support learning.**
* **To provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work in partnership and enjoy learning experiences.**

**What is the purpose of Homework?**

* **To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.**
* **To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.**
* **To allow parents to gain an understanding of what their child is learning at school.**
* **To allow children to progress towards becoming more independent learners.**

**The role of the school.**

* **The school will provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.**
* **The school will ensure that this policy is fully and consistently followed.**
* **The school will support parents with information about homework.**
* **The school will provide support for children with the running of a homework club for pupils from P5-P7 (Term 1 Only). Other focused Year Group after school Literacy and Numeracy Clubs will take place in Terms 2 and 3 to raise standards and improve provision for all.**

**The role of the teacher.**

* **To plan and set a programme of homework that is appropriate to the needs of the child.**
* **To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.**
* **To mark and give feedback about homework.**
* **To be available to talk to parents and children about homework.**
* **To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework (If a child firgets homeworks three times in a row… parents will be informed)**
* **To use the Reading Notebook (P1 – P2) and Homework Diary(P3 – P7) as a means of effective communication of set pieces of homework and also to communicate with parents regarding homework. The diary will be used to communicate positive aspects of a child’s day in school and may from time to time be used to communicate areas for development. Time will be given in class each day to allow children to complete their Homework Diary as it is felt that this is an important part of developing our children’s organisational skills. Each teacher will check that the child has completed the Homework Diary appropriately and that the parent has signed the child’s diary also.**

**The role of the Parent.**

* **To encourage the child to complete their homework independently and offer support only when it is needed.**
* **To ensure that the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.**
* **To provide the appropriate conditions for the child to complete the homework.**
* **To sign the child’s homework diary so that the teacher will know that they have overseen the homework and support the work of the school.**
* **To send a written note to the teacher in the homework diary if the homework could not be completed for any reason.**

**The role of the child.**

* **To make sure that they have everything they need to complete homework each day.**
* **To record their homework each day in their homework diary (Years 4-7 …. Teacher assisted Year 3 )**
* **To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.**
* **To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.**
* **To hand the homework in on time.**
* **To take on board any feedback about homework.**

**Homework in Nursery**

**This involves simple oral instructions given occasionally to children. It may involve children to (eg) Bring in materials for Junk Art etc. It may also involve effective oral communication with parents RE: topics being studied in school. No formal homework.**

**Homework in Foundation stage and Key Stage 1.**

**For children in Foundation stage and key stage 1 we encourage parents to work together with their child to support them with their homework. The emphasis remains on Literacy and reading and important Numeracy skills.**

**Reading.**

**Reading on a regular basis is vital when children are in Foundation stage and Key stage 1. Children will bring home shared or guided reading books initially and then the Oxford Reading Tree scheme (*after Halloween in P1)* every evening. The role of the adult is to listen and support them. It is important to remind them to use different strategies to read new words, sounding out the word, looking at the pictures and looking for words within words are ways in which the child can read an unknown word. Just as important is discussing the book to check that the child has understood what they have read. Children will have a reading record which parents/carers should sign or write a comment in each time they read with a child.**

**How Much Time should be spent on Homework?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary 1** | **10 minutes shared reading daily.**  **4x5 minute tasks in Literacy, Numeracy or another curriculum area per week** |
| **Primary 2** | **10-15 minutes reading daily.**  **4x 10 minute tasks in Literacy, Numeracy or another curriculum area per week.** |
| **Primary 3 & 4** | **10-15 minutes reading daily.**  **4x 15 minute tasks in Literacy, Numeracy or another curriculum area per week.**  **Spelling / Numeracy Facts/**  **Tables (P4)** |

**Homework in Key Stage 2**

**As children get older, homework provides an opportunity for them to develop the skill of independent learning. It is important that parents support their children but good habits of independent study should be encouraged.**

**The main focus for homework in Key Stage 2 continues to be literacy and Numeracy however pupils will be given more varied tasks in other areas of the curriculum occasionally.**

**Reading in Key Stage 2.**

**Children may read to an adult, or read to themselves in the presence of an adult. The story and characters should be talked about and new words discussed. Older children need a clear understanding of the story that sometimes will go beyond the literal meaning of the text. Children will read texts that are more detailed and will take longer to read. They should be encouraged to read all types of texts including non- fiction. Children in Key Stage 2 should make sure that their reading diary is brought to school and that it has been signed by an adult.**

**Literacy.**

**This will be based around what the children are learning in class. The work could be based on spelling, grammar or punctuation. They may be asked to read texts and answer comprehension questions. The task could be a planning or writing activity. Cloze procedures, sequencing, sentence writing etc are other forms of Literacy Homework.**

**Numeracy.**

**This will also be based on what the children are learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on number, shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work. Pupils will be asked to make sure they know their tables from 2 to 12. They should be able to recite them and answer mixed questions. They will also be asked to complete a Mental Maths Homework as well each night.**

**How Much Time should be spent on Homework?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary 5 & 6** | **P5- 20 minutes reading daily.**  **Spellings/ Tables/ Numeracy Facts**  **4 x 20 minutes tasks in Literacy, Numeracy or another curriculum area per week.**  **P6- 20 minutes reading daily.**  **Spellings/ Tables/ Numeracy Facts**  **4 x 20 minutes tasks in Literacy, Numeracy or another curriculum area per week.**  **The two Literacy Homeworks in a week will include sentence writing, cloze procedures, comprehensions and other independent writing activities in the week as well as homework related to their actual school reading book.**  **The two Numeracy Homeworks in a week will include a focus from Numeracy Teaching in class AND Mental Maths Homework also. In order to help raise standards and provide additional support for children homework may be given over the weekend. This will be by mutual teacher/parental agreement.** |
| **Primary 7** | **20 minutes reading daily.**  **Spellings/ Tables/ Numeracy Facts**  **4 x 25 minutes tasks in Literacy, Numeracy or another curriculum area per week.**  **The two Literacy Homeworks in a week will include sentence writing, cloze procedures, comprehensions and other independent writing activities in the week as well as homework related to their actual school reading book.**  **The two Numeracy Homeworks in a week will include a focus from Numeracy Teaching in class AND Mental Maths Homework also.**  **In order to help raise standards and provide additional support for children homework may be given over the weekend. This will be by mutual teacher/parental agreement.** |

**Failure to complete Homework.**

**The expectation is that the children will complete homework. Teachers will keep records of children who fail to complete homework and these records will be checked on a regular basis. If there are any problems with children not completing homework then the teacher will speak to parents to find out why. Persistent failure to complete homework will result in contacting parents and will be brought to the attention of the Principal.**

**There may be occasions when a child will miss playtime or some of lunchtime if they have not completed homework in order to catch up.**

**Information regarding homework completion will be communicated to parents orally in Nursery, via the “Reading Notebook” (P1 – P2) and the “Homework Diary” (P3 – P7).**

**Homework Passes**

**Pupils may receive a homework pass as a reward for hard work and good concentration or excellent behaviour.These will be distributed at the discretion of the class teacher and will be communicated to the parent via the Reading Notebook (P1 – P2) or the Homework Diary (P3 – P7).**