



St Thomas of Canterbury

Catholic Primary School

Where every child is special



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Homework Policy (next review, July 2024)



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

God's love is at the heart of our Catholic School family.

We show this in our respect, kindness and love for others and by treating other people as we wish to be treated ourselves.

We will encourage everyone to be the best that we can be.

OUR SCHOOL AIMS

To guide our children to grow in the love of God and build relationships that will enable them to make a positive contribution to the school and society.

To develop an exciting, challenging and creative curriculum that produces confident and successful learners who are the best that they can be.

To develop high quality learning that enables every child to flourish, to discover their talents and be lifelong learners.

To establish a teaching and learning environment that encourages everyone to enjoy, to achieve, to be inclusive, to be healthy, and to stay safe.

To nurture a strong partnership between home and school.

To have respect and understanding for our school, our community and our world, helping our children to become responsible citizens and good role models.

OUR SHARED VISION

Every child at St Thomas of Canterbury is special and will achieve their full potential academically, socially, spiritually and emotionally through the provision of a loving community and rich and varied learning opportunities and the highest quality teaching and learning.

Every staff member at St Thomas of Canterbury will feel valued and enabled to provide the opportunities that we want for our children and to do so as part of a loving community which has the highest expectations of and for all.

Every Governor at St Thomas of Canterbury will feel valued and enabled to act as a critical friend to the School and to be accountable for the School's strategy. They will play a visible role supporting all children, their parents and staff at School and in the wider community, to provide the best environment possible for learning and spiritual growth.

Making **S=P+A+C+E** for learning

Horseshoe Lane West, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2SX Tel: 01483 888388 www.st-thomas.surrey.sch.uk



OUR GOLDEN RULE

We treat others as we would like to be treated

In line with the Mission Statement of the School, the Homework Policy seeks to ensure that homework is an integral part of a broad balanced, engaging, challenging and relevant curriculum. Through the homework set, each child of whatever age, ability, gender, culture or social group is encouraged to realise their own highest potential.

In line with all teaching here at St Thomas of Canterbury, homework should encourage our children to make **S=P+A+C+E** for their learning: Perseverance, a positive can-do Attitude reflective of a growth mind-set, encourage and develop Confidence and require some degree of Effort.

Homework should never be given for the sake of it but only to achieve a purposeful learning outcome. The homework we set must:

- ◆ Engage the learner.
- ◆ Offer appropriate challenge.
- ◆ Encourage independent learning.
- ◆ Provide feedback to learners
- ◆ Facilitate progress.

The purpose of homework

The key purposes of homework for the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 is:

- ◆ To develop the partnership between the school and parents in an active involvement in their children's learning;
- ◆ To give pupils the chance to consolidate their skills, particularly in Maths and English, while being supported by an interested adult: reading, spelling and times tables and number bonds.

In addition at Key Stage 2, the aims are:

- ◆ To encourage pupils to gradually develop the confidence and self-discipline needed for personal study and independent learning;
- ◆ To exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home;
- ◆ To extend school learning through additional reading;
- ◆ To prepare pupils for homework demands of secondary school, by gradually increasing the amount of homework, the range and types of tasks set and curriculum content covered and by developing the children's independence and sense of responsibility through the use of Homework Diaries.

Types of homework

The focus of homework will be on the core subjects of English (spellings and SPAG etc), Maths (including times tables) and R.E. However, homework may be given in respect of any curriculum subject. A home school link activity will be set for each of the three RE topics studied over the course of a term.





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Regular reading to and with parents/carers is very important. The children will be expected to read or be heard reading for between 5-30 minutes each day depending on their year group.

To aid Maths, the school will set number games and tasks and more formal mathematical exercises, as the children progress through the two Key Stages. Once again, some of these tasks will involve parents/carers.

All home activities will be designed to meet the needs of the children.

In addition, children in Key Stage 2 will have differentiated homework that may include:

- ♦ finding out information/collecting artefacts
- ♦ reading in preparation for lessons
- ♦ preparing for oral presentations
- ♦ traditional written assignments

This will enable children to develop independent learning skills and lively inquiring minds and encourage the ability to question, in preparation for adult life.

From time to time, a small amount of homework time will be spent on the completion of class-based tasks.

Recommended times for daily home activities

	Reading	Other Activities
Reception EYFS	5/10 minutes	5 minutes
Years 1 and 2	10 minutes	10 minutes
Years 3 and 4	10 – 20 minutes	20 minutes 2 x per week (Additional tasks as appropriate)
Year 5	20 - 30 minutes	30 minutes 3 x per week (Additional tasks as appropriate)
Year 6	20 - 30 minutes	English/Maths 5 x per week (Additional tasks as appropriate)

Under normal circumstances, more than one evening will be allowed for the completion of homework in order to enable information to be collected and after school activities to be taken into consideration.

The planning of homework

At the beginning of the School year, the teacher will set the regular weekly pattern of homework for the year group. This will be communicated to parents in the termly Year Group newsletters and reinforced at the start of year Curriculum Evenings. Parents will also be given advice about how best to support their children with homework.



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The role of the teacher

Teachers will strive to:

- ◆ Ensure children and parents are clear about expectations.
- ◆ Ensure homework is set following the arrangements outlined above.
- ◆ Ensure homework is challenging, engaging and relevant.
- ◆ Provide feedback on homework.
- ◆ Monitor reading records (KS1) and Homework Diaries (KS2) on a regular basis.

The role of Parents/Carers

Parents and Carers are encouraged to:

- ◆ Provide a quiet place for the children to do their homework, either alone, or together with an adult
- ◆ To make clear to the children that homework is valued
- ◆ To praise children when they have completed their homework
- ◆ To maintain a regular check on reading record books, spelling books and homework diaries, and to use these books to maintain a dialogue between school and home. Comments by parents on the ease or difficulty with which their child completed the homework are welcomed.
- ◆ To engage in discussion with the class teacher if they have any concerns or worries about a child's engagement or progress with homework.

The role of the child

Children will gain most from their homework when they:

- ◆ Take care to record homework accurately in homework diaries (KS2).
- ◆ Try their best with the tasks set.
- ◆ Follow the Presentation Promise in all their homework tasks.
- ◆ Hand in or complete work on time.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Senior leaders will monitor adherence to the homework policy, through the sampling of homework diaries, reading record books and assignments from time to time together with discussions on the success of its implementation with teachers and parents/carers and the School Council.

This policy of St Thomas of Canterbury School upholds the school's ethos and Mission Statement. It must be read in conjunction with and implemented in accordance to the school's policies for Curriculum & Learning, Health & Safety Equal Opportunities, Inclusion and Safeguarding. Copies of these policies are available from the school website.

