

# St. Mark's C. E. Primary School

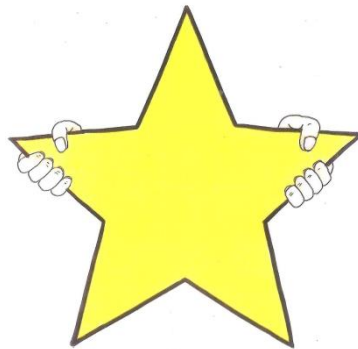


## Homework Policy

Review Date: Spring 2024

Next Review: Spring 2027

## St Mark's Church of England Primary School Staplefield



Together, in God's love, we will shine.

Together	in God's love	we will shine.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will provide a secure and happy learning environment where everyone is valued</li><li>• In partnership with the home, the Church and our local community, we will foster a lifelong love of learning</li><li>• We will become thoughtful, responsible citizens in the Global community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We believe that every child is an individual with equal rights to our care, time and attention</li><li>• We nurture and support each other on our journey of discovery, knowledge and faith</li><li>• We will create an environment in which everyone learns that he/she is made in the image of God</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will develop joyous learners with high self-esteem</li><li>• We will encourage a natural curiosity and excitement for learning</li><li>• Through creative, challenging and personalised teaching and learning, each child will achieve.</li></ul>

## Homework Policy

The staff and governors of St Mark's CE School believe that children learn best when all participants in their education work together as partners. Homework is an integral part of this partnership as it enables teachers, parents and carers to:

- deepen children's learning through practising, rehearsing, researching and sharing work at home
- enrich school-based learning by completing tasks that could not be done at school, such as making artefacts, visiting relevant museums, buildings or places
- encourage children to develop confidence, self-discipline and interest in learning beyond school
- support children in recognising the importance of planning and organising their time, meeting deadlines, having responsibility for their own learning and, increasingly, the value of more formal homework in preparation for secondary school
- help children to become independent, autonomous learners

We recommend pupils should be spending approximately:

Years 1 and 2 - 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4 - 1½ hours per week

Years 5 and 6 - 2 hours per week

### The nature of homework

Homework at St Mark's School takes many forms but all children are expected to:

- Spend time reading each day, although this does not always need to be their school reading book, encouraging the development of personal interests and the opportunity to share books with family members and visit the library being highly valued by all of the school community.
- Learn and practise spellings/phonics to build confidence and accuracy in written work,
- Learn and practise counting and later times tables to ensure quick, accurate recall and an interest in numbers.
- Children will be asked to complete an activity which supports the work they are doing in class as part of their topic work, or a piece of mathematics or literacy.

The length of time required to complete the activity varies according to the age of the child, but should not exceed the recommendations above. In year 6 this may extend to two pieces of work each week and will include time for reinforcement and revision as they work towards the end of their time at primary school.

The day on which homework tasks are set varies according to the programme for the week in each year group, however the teachers will endeavour to ensure that there are several days over which a task may be completed and that it extends beyond the weekend, to enable other out of school and family commitments to be enjoyed. We will also run a homework club at school to support those pupils that struggle to complete their homework at home.

Teachers endeavour to provide a short explanation regarding the task and the context for the homework set.

An activity may be set over a holiday period, but will be extended into the next term to recognise the importance of time to relax at home. However, tasks set for this time are often planned to support the introduction of a new topic and build confidence, knowledge and interest in a new area of work, or to promote rehearsal of skills in preparation for the return to school. They provide an opportunity for parents and children to engage and enthuse about a certain topic, event, place or time.

Some tasks require making or preparing a model or costume. The school recognises that such activities may need more significant support from parents, but wishes to note that all contributions are valued, that for some families this type of activity engages other members of the family with the learning, and that such activities are beyond the scope of the school day.

Wherever possible, teachers adjust homework to meet the needs of individual children. Over each term a range of activities may be set some of which will require more adult support, although this tends to decrease as the children progress through the school. It is valuable for the teacher to know if a task has required more significant help than expected, as this may inform future tasks or planning for support and challenge in the classroom.

Teachers ensure that the children have feedback for their homework, and this takes several forms. It may be a verbal comment, celebrated in a display, talked about in class or included within other work. Children need to know that their work and the involvement of their parents in any task is valued by the school.

### **Reception**

Children should enjoy daily sharing of books. Suggestions for number activities, such as counting and learning number bonds will be sent home regularly.

### **Year 1**

1. Children should read at home daily, supported where necessary by high frequency words.

### **Year 2**

1. Children should read at home daily
2. Spellings/phonics are taken home weekly.

### **Years 3 and 4**

1. Children are expected to read at home every day.
2. Spellings and times tables are taken home weekly.
3. Either a maths or literacy task to support classroom learning may be set once a week.

### **Years 5 and 6**

1. Children are expected to continue to read at home each day.
2. Spellings are taken home weekly.
3. A weekly maths and literacy task is sent home weekly.

**Key Stage 2:** In addition to the above, longer tasks may be set to do with their project learning. These are designed to appeal to a range of learning styles.

Children throughout the school may be asked to take home unfinished work to complete should the class teacher feel this is necessary.