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St Mary's
Church of England
Primary School

St Marys Church of England Primary School Home Learning Policy

VISION

For children to be excited about their learning, proud of all their achievements, determined to be the best they can be, aware of the world around them, inspired by gospel values.

MISSION

- Through excellent teaching we will deliver an inspirational curriculum
- We will enable every child to make the very best progress
- We will work in partnership with children and families to further promote confidence and self esteem
- We will prepare children to confidently face the challenges of growing up in the 21st Century
- We will provide children with an understanding of local, national and global communities and faiths.
- With St Mary's Church, Brookside Methodist, and other local churches, we will further develop understanding of gospel values in action through worship and across the curriculum

1. Introduction

1.1. This document outlines the policy for St Mary's Church of England Primary School regarding the use of home learning throughout the school.

1.2. The policy reflects the intention of the staff including both teachers and teaching assistants and has the support and agreement of the Governing Body.

1.3. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff.

1.4. In keeping with our vision and mission statements, at St Mary's Church of England Primary School we recognise the importance of home learning in reinforcing and extending classroom learning and in helping children develop skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning. It supports the development of independent learning skills, in particular those of enquiry and investigation.

2. Rationale

2.1. At St Mary's Church of England Primary School we believe that home learning is a very important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development, not least that learning does not begin and end with the timing of the school day. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. As well as supporting each child's learning at St Mary's Church of England Primary School we see home learning as an important way of establishing a successful

Diocese of St Albans
London Borough of Barnet



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



dialogue between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our school is for children to develop as independent learners, developing important skills such as motivation, the discipline of managing time and taking responsibility for learning.

2.2. Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While home learning is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents and carers encourage them to make maximum use of the experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school.

3. Aims

3.1. The school aims to:

- promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning, ensuring parents/carers have a clear understanding about expectations for themselves and the pupil,
- consolidate, reinforce and extend learning done in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons, particularly in literacy and numeracy,
- improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils by using resources of all kinds at home, including safe use of computer technology, libraries, interviews and other research skills,
- encourage children, as they get older, to develop long term strategies as well as the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and thus prepare them for the requirements of secondary school,
- Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account.

4. Types of Home learning

4.1 Home learning will be set and several days allowed for completing the task. Weekends and holidays may be included but will always also include school days. Children will therefore not be expected to complete task exclusively during a weekend or holiday.

4.2. We set a variety of home learning activities for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2 as follows:

Year	Subject
Reception	<p>Reading daily 10 minutes each day: this is from learning to read [scheme] books, and /or other children's books. Children should read to an adult, and also the adult should read to the child every day.</p> <p>An activity as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A reading activity• handwriting practice• letter sounds practice• finding out• counting• maths activities such as identifying shapes
Years 1 and 2	<p>Reading daily 10-15 minutes each day</p> <p>A short activity [15-25 minutes] from any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number activity to support or extend class work and/or• Literacy / subject based task (as appropriate)

EVERY WEEK:

- Counting and/or Learning multiplication tables
- Learning spellings

Research/finding out: this may be a longer project lasting over a few weeks

Years 3-6

Reading 15-20 minutes per day

Weekly

- spelling practice
- Learning multiplication tables

A literacy and maths activity as follows [each lasting 20-30 minutes]:

- A reading/writing activity to practice or extend skills learned in class
- A maths activity to practice or extend skills learned in class
- A longer research project for example to prepare a written report or power point presentation.

As children progress through years 3-6 the length of time spent on home learning will increase so that by year the end of 6 children are well prepared for the demands of home learning secondary school.

In Y6, the children have a Home Learning Diary, giving them ownership and responsibility for their home learning, both during year 6 and in preparation for secondary school.

5. Partnership between school staff, children and parents/carers.

In setting home learning, the school recognise the vital partnership between all those involved, school staff, children and parents/carers.

To enable home learning to be successful in supporting learning:

School staff will:

- Set tasks appropriate to the age and stage of learning of the child.
- Ensure that children understand the tasks and their importance for learning
- Where practice sheets are used, include a clear explanation of the task
- Ensure that children and parents/carers know when home learning should be handed in. This is usually included in half termly curriculum letter

Children will:

- Make sure they understand the tasks: they should speak to staff before the due date for handing in if they are unsure what to do.
- Take home learning home and return it on the allocated day
- Tell parents/carers what they have to do
- Complete written tasks to the best of their ability and ensure they are well presented
- Ask parents/carers to support them if necessary, and ask them to initial completed tasks

Parents and carers will:

- Support home learning by providing a quiet space for reading or for written tasks to be completed
- Where additional resources are needed, e.g. research through internet use, library, interviews, support the child to access these resources responsibly
- Support by answering questions, not doing the work for them! As children move through the school, and by year 3, they should not need an adult with them.
- Initial any completed written tasks to ensure they are done to the best of their ability and are well presented