**Introduction**

This policy for homework reflects the guidelines set out by the Government's view on the purposes of homework, on how much and what sort of homework should be set for pupils of different ages and on what should be expected of both school and parents/carers in supporting pupils. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of staff, children and parents/carers.

**The Nature and Purpose of Homework**

The school recognises the following nature and purpose of homework; it should:

* be part of an effective partnership between the school, pupils,parents and other carers;
* extend school learning, consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, or explore new ideas;
* appreciate and value the different kinds of home learning environments;
* be fun!

We encourage parents/carers to take an interest in the tasks set as this will be a reflection of the work happening in class.

**Homework Activities**

Nursery: children should share their library books and practise number activities, such as counting and recognising numbers, at home.

Reception: When children are in Reception class, they will bring home a ’reading book’ - short ‘decodable’ books which they can read independently and should also practise reading to parents. It is very important that parents hear their child’s reading and ask them questions about the story. In addition to this, the children may also bring home a library book that may be slightly beyond their current reading level. This is so that parents can read to them and help widen their understanding and vocabulary.

Years 1 & 2: Each week, children will be sent home decodable books which practise the phonics sounds that they learned the previous week (for consolidation). Children should read with parents or carers daily and also learn spelling lists/sight vocabulary. Maths homework tasks will be set online each Friday on Sumdog. Some additional grammar and punctuation work may also be set each week at the teacher’s discretion.

Years 3 to 6: Weekly reading tasks and/or book-related activities will be set, at times alongside additional grammar, punctuation and spelling work on Sumdog. Maths homework tasks will be set online each Friday on Sumdog.

At times, teachers may replace the English or Maths tasks with Topic curriculum tasks to enhance the learning taking place in class.

Additional homework:

Some children may have additional support in school, for example, completing a specific intervention programme. This may occasionally involve additional homework. The adult in charge of the intervention group will communicate this with parents/carers.

Spelling

When appropriate, spelling lists will be sent home or set online through Sumdog. These may include commonly misspelt words and vocabulary related to wider learning in the classroom. Children will be asked to study and try and learn these spellings. Sometimes this might be followed by an informal spelling test.

Oracy

St Paul’s has a strong focus on oracy – the ability to communicate effectively. We encourage families to speak with each other to talk about learning at school and the books that they bring home. Having debates and discussions are a great way to promote conversation. On occasion, oracy homework may be set.

**Assessment**

Teachers are not required to formally mark all homework but will talk to children about what they have done well and possible areas for development. Teachers will also inform parents if they are concerned that homework is not being done.

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