



St Brendan's RC Primary School

Homework Policy

**Love life,
Love learning,
Achieve together in God's love.**

AIMS

Homework is defined as *any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.*

At St Brendan's RCP we appreciate how important and valuable good home/school links are and the need for us all to work together to ensure a good education for all children.

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

The school regards the purpose of homework as being:

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the school and the development of their child;
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in English and Maths;
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading;
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary school.

At St Brendan's RCP teaching staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon.

We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities, e.g. swimming, ballet, Beavers, Brownies, music lessons etc.

We hope parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

CURRENT PRACTICE

At the beginning of the academic year, each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework.

Parents will be issued with a curriculum overview each term to inform them about the main topics and units of work being covered.

HOMEWORK PASSPORTS

Our main homework at St Brendan's is our Homework Passports. Every year the children receive a scrapbook with 10-15 activities to complete that year, resulting in the children completing '100 things before they leave St Brendan's.'

Children are encouraged to complete 3-5 of the activities each term and at the end of each term there is an opportunity, in class, to showcase the scrapbook portfolios and activities to celebrate the children's achievements.

The Homework Passport promotes Children's Rights through positive play, outdoor experiences, life skills, enjoyment and precious memories. It also provides fun activities to do as a family and opportunities to deepen your child's understanding of the world around them through providing rich, first hand activities to explore and learn.

See Appendix 1 for the letter sent home each year about the Homework Passport.

READING AND SPELLING

Home Reading: Children are encouraged to read at home at least three times a week. The importance of reading at home cannot be over-emphasised and we hope that children will read for pleasure in their own time. All children will be provided with an appropriate school reading book, which can be taken home to read with a parent or other adult person. Parents are always encouraged to comment in their children reading record book. They sign when they have listened to or read to their child.

On a Friday, the number of children in each class who have read three times will be counted for the 'Whole School Reading Challenge' and those children who have not read three times (with a signed reading record) will receive a text home as a reminder to read.

Spellings: Spelling patterns are uploaded to SeeSaw each half term. These spellings are learned in class each week. They can be practised at home using the Spelling Shed app/website and clicking on the 'assignments' section.

ADDITIONAL HOMEWORK

Where appropriate, these activities may also be set as homework/uploaded to SeeSaw:

- Key words to practise and learn, to support reading.
- Phonics sound flashcards to practice the sounds learning in Read, Write Inc (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
- Phonics words/booklets to prepare for the Phonics Screening Check (particularly Year 1 and Year 2)
- White Rose Maths workbooks may be set after a Maths topic is complete to reinforce maths skills and learning for that topic.
- Activities on Purple Mash
- Monster Multiplication on Purple Mash to encourage times tables practice.
- R.E. - Year 3 and Year 4 children are encouraged to complete tasks with their families related to their Sacramental preparation.
- Occasional home research, particularly related to Topic work.
- SATs practice (particularly, Year 2 and Year 6).
- Fun competitions/challenges may also be set during the year related to current topics.
- Additional maths/writing activities may be set home for children for additional support.

Children who are part of a school group (e.g. Chaplains, Pupil Parliament, Caritas, Rights' Respecters, Wellbeing Champions) may be asked to complete an activity/task in their own time.

Children attending music lessons in school are also expected to practise in their own time.

Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability. Your help, encouragement and praise will be the key to success.

SEN

Homework will be differentiated appropriately, where necessary, to meet the needs of each child.

Document history

Date	Amendments
September 2013	Policy rewritten and updated.
January 2015	Reviewed and amended
January 2021	Reviewed and amended
September 2024	To be reviewed

Appendix 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are continuing to complete our Homework Passport this year with the '100 Things To Do Before You Leave St Brendan's'. We feel this list helps to promote: positive play, outdoor experiences, life skills, enjoyment and precious memories. There are so many experiences that contribute to a child's education, many of which are free and on our door step. Many of these activities have been recommended by the Department for Education and have been chosen to deepen your child's understanding of the world around them through providing rich, first hand activities to explore and learn.

The activities have been split into year groups to make them more achievable and many of these activities relate to learning in school. **We ask that the children aim to complete 5 of the things on their year group list each term (3-4 activities each term for Reception), meaning they will have completed every activity for their year group by the end of the year.**

At the end of each term we are asking children to present a portfolio of the things they completed that term in their scrapbook as their homework. The portfolio can be presented in a variety of ways (e.g. photographs, writing of the experience, drawings, leaflets about the activity, a PowerPoint uploaded to Seesaw to support the portfolio etc). Please complete the first activities by December, ready for the children to showcase these in class. If you would like to showcase anything additional (e.g. awards, clubs, special achievements etc) then please also include this in the scrapbook portfolio.

In 2012, a report by the National Trust highlighted how today's children are losing touch with the natural world and the long term effect this can have on a child's education and health. It found that fewer than 1 in 10 children play regularly in wild places and that time spent playing in parks, woods and fields has reduced dramatically over the years. Similarly, in 2016, a two year study funded by the government found 1 in 9 children in England have not set foot in a park, forest, beach or any other natural environment for at least 12 months.

We hope you enjoy our '100 Things To Do Before You Leave St Brendan's' and if you have any ideas of other experiences that we could include in the future, please let us know.

Please join us in promoting outdoor learning, real experiences, health and memories!

Thank you for your support.