

Bury Catholic Preparatory School

Mission Statement

Each child in this school family is as important to us as they are to God.

Aim

We aim to educate all our children in a secure and loving environment, working together to ensure that we provide the positive experiences of success that give confidence and motivation for future learning.

Homework Policy

Every Child Matters

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Social and economic well-being

Introduction

Homework helps pupils by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for pupils to be responsible for their own learning.

Inclusion

At Bury Catholic Preparatory School we recognise that all our children have the entitlement to be included in all aspects of school life. In order to ensure that our children are valued as individuals and able to benefit from the opportunities on offer,

we:-

- adapt activities to take account of learning styles;
- plan carefully to include a variety of teaching approaches and setting of additional targets;
- assess the language used;
- communicate with other members of staff and parents;
- develop cross-curricular links;
- allow time for reflection and role play and
- thoroughly evaluate and monitor.

Purpose

Homework is an opportunity for parents/carers to participate in their child's education. Parents and carers, in partnership with the school, should encourage children to establish good homework patterns from early primary school.

- Pupils benefit from completing homework regularly. Homework helps them develop organisational and time-management skills, self discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.
- Communication between parents/carers and the school is essential part of the parent/carer-school relationship needed to provide children with the best opportunities. Communication is be maintained through a variety of means e.g. diaries, homework books, learning journeys etc.
- Homework should be work covered previously in the classroom and pupils should mostly be able to work independently.

Homework should:

- be appropriate to the student's skill level
- be interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open ended
- be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- be assessed by teachers and support provided, where necessary.

Guidelines

In Reception, homework should:

- mainly consist of daily reading and phonic practice with parents/carers. This may include book orientation and follow up discussions.
- take approximately 10 minutes per day

In Year 1, homework should:

- mainly consist of daily reading with parents/carers, this may include book orientation and follow up discussions about the book or what has been read
- require children to complete a piece of numeracy and literacy work and learn spellings each week
- occasionally request parents/carers to support classroom work with visits, resources etc
- take 10-15 minutes

In Year 2, homework should:

- mainly consist of daily reading to, with and by parents/carers, this may include book orientation and follow up discussions about the book or what has been read.
- require children to complete unfinished or additional work to support their learning and in addition to spellings, a piece of numeracy and literacy work will be set each week. Multiplication tables will be added in the Spring term.
- occasionally request parents/carers to support classroom work with visits, resources etc
- take 15-20 minutes

In Year 3, homework should:

- include 10 minutes of daily independent reading.
- mainly consist of reinforcement of class work and skills including the learning of the multiplication tables and weekly spellings. In addition children may be asked to gather extra information or materials. Homework tasks can cover all subject areas but a piece of literacy and numeracy work will be set each week
- take no more than 30 minutes per day

In Year 4, homework should:

- include 10 minutes of daily independent reading,
- mainly consist of reinforcement/extension of class work and skills including the learning of the multiplication tables and weekly spellings. In addition children may be asked to gather extra information or materials to support the development of knowledge and skills in their Creative Curriculum work. Homework tasks can cover all subject areas but a piece of literacy and numeracy work will be set each week
- take no more than 35 minutes per day

In Year 5, homework should:

- include 10 minutes of daily independent reading
- mainly consist of reinforcement/extension of class work and skills including the learning of the multiplication tables and weekly spellings. In addition children may be asked to gather extra information or materials to support the development of knowledge and skills in their Creative Curriculum work. Homework tasks can cover all subject areas but a piece of literacy and numeracy work will be set each week
- take no more than 40 minutes per day

In **Year 6**, homework should:

- include up to 20-30 minutes of daily independent reading,
- mainly consist of reinforcement/extension of class work and skills including the learning of the multiplication tables and weekly spellings. In addition children may be asked to gather extra information or materials to support the development of knowledge and skills in their Creative Curriculum work. Homework tasks can cover all subject areas but a piece of literacy and numeracy work will be set each week
- take up to 45 minutes per day

Expectations

Parents and carers can help their children by:

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and preparing for the following day at school
- observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing
- encouraging them by setting aside a regular daily reading and homework time
- allowing their children to complete homework as independently as possible and helping by discussing key questions or directing children to the relevant resources.
- helping children to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities
- checking school bags every evening, signing homework and reading diaries and, if they have any questions, contacting the class teacher. If they have a concern or complaint regarding homework or the school's homework policy they should contact the class teacher in the first instance and if the issue is unresolved, the Head teacher or the Chair of Governors.
- speaking to the class teacher if there are any problems with the completion of homework e.g. misunderstandings or excessive amounts of time being spent completing given tasks.

October 2011

To be reviewed: September 2012