



St Nicholas' School

Homework Policy

Purpose of homework:

At St. Nicholas' we believe in the benefits of providing homework to children from Reception to Year 6 for a number of purposes, including in non-prioritised order:

- ✓ To consolidate class work, reinforcing taught concepts;
- ✓ To develop independent work and thinking;
- ✓ To encourage child-parent interaction with school work;
- ✓ To encourage pupil thinking pre-class work;
- ✓ To develop cross-curricular skills, knowledge and understanding;
- ✓ To challenge pupils' thinking and extend their skills, knowledge and understanding;
- ✓ To develop research and project skills;
- ✓ To catch up on missed or incomplete work;
- ✓ To review learning;
- ✓ To encourage organisation, timekeeping, and working to a deadline.

Naturally, teachers at St. Nicholas' seek to match the homework task set to the intended purpose for the homework. Teachers during the course of a term will use homework for a variety of purposes such as introduction of a new topic, elicitation of existing understanding, reinforcement of a topic from class, or recapping a previously studied concept prior to moving onto the next stage.

Amount of homework:

We believe that whilst homework is important, the amount set should be appropriate to the age and ability of each pupil. The same homework may be set for a class but the teacher will often differentiate by expectation and outcome. The amount of time we expect pupils to spend on homework is based upon the premise that pupils complete homework 'independently'. The amount of homework expected is outlined below

Completion of homework:

We encourage parents to show an interest in and awareness of their child's homework. Teachers set homework with the intention of pupils completing it without much parental support. Whilst we teach pupils to be responsible for the completion of homework, for example by managing their homework Diary (see below), we also ask parents to check their child has completed their homework. We also ask parents to try and ensure that an appropriate atmosphere and space for this work is provided. As with any child's work, encouragement and appropriate rewards for completion can be motivational.

Communication and checking of homework:

All children in Reception to Year 6 are provided with a homework Diary for the noting of set homework and for the teacher to communicate simple message to parents. Parents can also communicate simple messages to their child's teacher in the diary.

Teachers normally write the homework set onto the board for pupils to copy into their diary on a daily basis. For younger children, the teacher will write the homework into the diary. Pupils are also encouraged to note when the homework is due.

Concerns about homework:

If it is apparent that a pupil is overly challenged by a piece of homework, or if the amount of time the child needs to complete the work is excessive then parents are encouraged to communicate this concern either briefly in the homework diary or in an email directly to the teacher. As with all concerns, if parents continue to note problems with homework despite communication to and discussion with the teacher, then parents are encourage to contact the School. They will if necessary discuss the matter with the Head before following up on the issue.

Homework should not cause stress to your child. The wellbeing of our pupils is the first priority, and children are not expected to complete work that is beyond them. We regard homework as important, but recognise that pupils also work long and hard during school hours.

Literacy, numeracy and project work:

At St. Nicholas' we aim to prepare pupils for 11+ examinations and school entrance assessments which are predominantly in English, Maths, verbal and non verbal reasoning, and we therefore have a focus upon English language and mathematical studies.

Review and assessment of homework:

Teachers review homework with their class and/or with individual pupils at an appropriate time after the due date. Homework may be used by the teacher to help ascertain gaps in a pupil's expected skills, knowledge and understanding. Homework also contributes towards pupils' end of term and year attainment grade.

We believe that it is important for both pupils and parents to know that at St. Nicholas' we rate incomplete or inaccurate homework where it is clearly the result of the pupil's independent / 'best' work above work that has clearly been unduly assisted by an adult.



Sample St. Nicholas' School Homework Timetable

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 1 and 2	Reading English	Reading Maths	Reading English	Reading Maths	CIPS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One piece of homework from either Science, History or Geography Pupils will complete a term-long project based on our History, Science or Geography topic. The weekly topic homework will occasionally contribute to the project work. 				
Year 3 and 4	English Reading	Maths Reading	English Reading	Maths Reading	CIPS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One piece of homework from either Science, History or Geography Pupils will complete a term-long project based on our History, Science or Geography topic. The weekly topic homework will occasionally contribute to the project work. 				
Year 5 and 6	English Reading	Maths Reading	English Reading	Maths Reading	CIPS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One piece of homework from either Science, History or Geography Pupils will complete a term-long project based on our History, Science or Geography topic. The weekly topic homework will occasionally contribute to the project work. 				

Amount of homework

As the children move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give them. We expect children in **Years 1 and 2** spend a minimum of 10-20 minutes a night doing homework and additional time for reading with a parent or carer. We expect children in **Years 3 and 4** to spend approximately 20-30 minutes per night on homework and children in **Years 5 and 6** to spend approximately 30 minutes per night. We would also expect that the children in Year 3-Year 6 read a little of their free reader each night.

On occasion, class work that is not fully completed at school may be sent home to be finished. Homework can be consolidation of class work or extension work.

We ask parents/carers to check the home-school diary and sign it at the end of each day.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2018.

The next review will take place in Autumn 2019 or in light of relevant regulatory changes.

Signed: Amit Mehta (Proprietor)