



Homework

POLICY

School Name

St. Andrew's Southgate

Updated

October 2024

Review Date

October 2025



At St Andrew's Southgate we recognise the partnership between home and school is vital in helping each pupil reach their full potential. By providing homework we hope to involve not just the pupil but the parents/carers as well. It becomes a shared experience and allows parents/carers to monitor their child's progress. We believe that it provides pupils with the opportunity to practice skills taught in class, develop independent learning skills and begin to recognize that learning takes place beyond the classroom.

AIMS

The aims of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner;
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons.

Many years of research have been undertaken into the impact of homework on pupils' progress and achievement. Two outcomes of this research are:

1. Pupils make the best progress and achieve the best outcomes if their families involve themselves positively in the tasks the children are given;
2. The tasks that have by far the most impact are those which prepare children for future learning in class or put previous learning into context through a different but related task.

We believe strongly that there should be a balance between academic demands and the time children spend on extracurricular activities such as music, sport, art and other leisure pursuits that our pupils enjoy. Homework should not take hours to complete and children should relish the challenge of completing them.

WHEN IS HOMEWORK SET?

All year groups should set new homework every Thursday. This should be returned to school by the following Tuesday, allowing children 4 days to complete the activities which have been set. If online or written homework is not returned by Tuesday, pupils will be given an opportunity to complete the work in school that week.

Each half term there will be a curriculum overview on the website for every year group, which will inform parents/carers what their child will be learning.

HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

Over every term and half-term break, pupils will receive optional holiday homework. Before all holidays, a letter and message will be sent to families detailing the holiday homework expectations for their child.

PARENTS AND HOMEWORK

Parents are encouraged to guide children with their homework should they need it, however they should encourage the child to work independently to complete the tasks set. If parents have any issues with homework, they should raise their concerns with the class teacher initially. The termly curriculum overview for each year group will include activities in which parents can help and support their child with tasks related to the topic.

SETTING HOMEWORK

Teachers have a responsibility to ensure that pupils are set homework which is at an appropriately differentiated level. They should ensure that homework set is in line with work which has been completed at school and so is not an entirely new concept to the child.

MATHS HOMEWORK (YEARS 1 - 6)

Teachers will set weekly Maths homework tasks on MyMaths. One or two tasks will be set each week, which will either support recent learning or consolidate a previously taught concept. It is expected that all pupils complete the tasks set. The pupils should attempt the tasks independently, however if they are struggling, then please encourage and support your child as required; an accompanying lesson is available to view for each homework task. Your child may also receive extra maths work either through My Maths or a challenge which should be done in their Homework book

READING HOMEWORK

All pupils are required to read daily; Key Stage 1 pupils for about 20 minutes and Key Stage 2 pupils for about 40 minutes.

What are the benefits of reading for pleasure?

- Children who say they enjoy reading for pleasure are more likely to score well on reading assessments compared to pupils who said they enjoyed reading less
- It can have a positive impact on pupils' emotional and social behaviour
- It can have a positive impact on text comprehension and grammar.

At St. Andrew's we use Accelerated Reader to engage pupils, motivate reading practice and improve reading progress.

WHAT IS ACCELERATED READING?

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a really effective software tool used by an increasing number of schools to foster reading growth. It encourages pupils to read widely and independently whilst allowing staff to monitor progress and support where necessary.

The programme is designed to work out a reading level (or STAR reading level) for pupils at the start (by means of a STAR test). Pupils then read books within this level – all books in the library that are registered with AR have a coloured star label on the spine to help them recognise books within their 'zone'. Pupils take a quiz on the website after reading each book to assess how well they understood it. Their STAR level is tested every other term to see how they have progressed.

As well as being about promoting reading and academic achievement, AR is also about enjoyment of reading and creating a real culture of reading at St Andrew's Southgate.

ONGOING BASIC SKILLS PRACTICE

Your child will bring home spelling lists and spelling patterns to learn which they will be tested on weekly in class. They may have to write sentences to show they understand the meaning of the word in context and they may have to use a particular strategy to help them learn. Spellings will be stuck in the child's homework book and sentences should be done in this and returned to school. They will also be expected to learn times tables and divisions by heart.