



**ST BERNARD'S PREPARATORY
SCHOOL**

HOMEWORK POLICY

ADVENT 2018

St Bernard's Preparatory School

HOMework POLICY

Mission Statement

With God as our shelter and Christ as our guide, the mission of St Bernard's Preparatory School is to educate towards love and service to God, each other and the wider community. Through our broad balanced curriculum we will develop an understanding of each faith and the values we share. We will treat each person with respect, knowing we are special and unique.

St Bernard's is part of the St Benedict's family of schools. All schools in the group share a similar Catholic and Benedictine/Bernardine ethos.

Children's Mission Statement

We follow God's footsteps through our love, work and our prayer.

INTRODUCTION

At St. Bernard's homework is seen as an extension of the normal school day. It consolidates and extends children's learning whilst developing independence. We envisage homework as a partnership between school and home. Homework encompasses a variety of activities prepared by the teacher. We see homework as an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents.

Homework can play a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. We also acknowledge the vital role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is priority, it should not prevent children from taking part in out-of-school clubs and activities. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their skills, interests and talents to the full only when parents encourage them to maintain a balance in their lives.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- To consolidate and extend learning in school and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons
- To help children develop the skills of an independent learner
- To encourage children to develop organisational skills leading to an effective, responsible work pattern
- To help to prepare pupils for secondary school

IMPLEMENTATION

Homework covers a range of activities, including oral, written research and review tasks. We believe that each is of equal importance. All children are also encouraged to read aloud every day.

In the Early Years Department, children are asked to take home tasks to share with parents. As the child progresses through the school these tasks become more formal.

The recommended time allocation is as follows:

Lower School

Early Years	-	10 daily oral, written where appropriate
Prep	-	15 minutes daily oral, written where appropriate
Upper Prep	-	30 minute daily written and additional oral work weekdays 40 minutes weekends

Upper School

Lower Trans	-	up to 45 minutes daily
Trans	-	up to 1 hour daily
Upper Trans	-	1 hour – 1 hour 15 minutes daily
Remove	-	up to 1.5 hour daily

Maths and English is given daily across the KS2.

ENTITLEMENT

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We aim to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework to pupils who are named on the register of special needs we refer to the individual plans.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as they feel necessary and provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the public library, regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing. Parents are offered a homework club which is supervised by teaching and teaching support staff.

We ask parents to check and initial the home/school diary daily.

From time to time, as part of the Creative Curriculum, parents will be asked to support their child in a learning project i.e. Lenten garden; design a spaceship; create a model for 'Our World' etc.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should note this in the diary for the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more specific nature, they should contact the class teacher in person.

Applies to:

- The whole School including the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS),
- All staff (teaching and non-teaching), Governors and volunteers working in the school.

Related Documents:

- Teaching and Learning, Homework Timetables

Availability:

This policy is made available to parents on our website www.stbernardsprep.org or a copy may be obtained from the school office on request.

Monitoring and Review:

This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Headmaster.

The Trustees will undertake a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than three years from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed by:

Headmaster _____

Date _____

Chair of Governors _____

Date _____