Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

Homework Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

To be a community of learners, believers and friends rooted in the values and teachings of the Gospel. We seek to enable every individual to develop his or her potential in the knowledge that they are uniquely created and loved by God.

This policy has been agreed by the Xavier Catholic Education Trust and will be reviewed in October 2027.

1 Introduction

1.1 Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities encouraged by teachers and parents to support the children's learning. For example, parents who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework.

2 Rationale for homework

2.1 At Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School we recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed we see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents. One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners.

2.2 Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to encourage independence, research and use of initiative
- to consolidate and reinforce skills learned in school
- to give parents opportunities to share and enjoy aspects of their children's educational development
- to create a disciplined approach to homework as preparation for the coming years

4 Types of homework

4.1 Staff and pupils regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning.

4.2 We set a variety of homework activities. In the Foundation Stage and at Key Stage 1 we give children books to take home and read with their parents. We give guidance to parents on achieving the maximum benefit from this time spent reading with their child. We may also ask Key Stage 1 children to learn spellings or mathematical tables as part of their homework. Sometimes we ask children to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school and, if possible, to bring examples into school to show the other children. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, and occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school, when we believe that they could benefit from spending further time on it. When we ask children to study a topic, or to research a particular subject, we encourage them to use not only the school library but also the local library, as well as the Internet and different computer programs and Apps.

4.3 At Key Stage 2 we continue to give children the sort of homework activities outlined in paragraph 4.2 but we expect them to do more tasks independently. We set literacy and numeracy homework routinely each week, and we expect the children to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school through practice at home.

4.4 Homework is marked according to the general school marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

4.5 We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach. Homework Club, after school, is available daily to give children a quiet space in school to complete their homework. This service is provided free to disadvantaged children.

5 Amount of homework

5.1

Reception
• Reading 10 minutes per night with a parent • Learn key words and phonics as required

Year 1
• Reading 10- 15 minutes per night • Key words and phonics as required

Year 2
• Reading 15- 20 minutes per night • Key words and phonics as required

- Weekly spelling practice
- Practise weekly Times-Tables
- Mathematics once a week (20 mins max)
- Literacy once per week (20 mins max)

Year 3
● Reading 15- 20 minutes per night ● Practise weekly Spellings ● Practise weekly Times-Tables ● Mathematics once a week (30 mins max) ● Literacy once per week (30 mins max)

Year 4
● Reading 20 minutes per night ● Practise weekly Spellings ● Practise weekly Times-Tables ● Mathematics once a week (30 mins max) ● Literacy once a week (30 mins max) ● I Can do Maths section once a week ● Topic research as required ● Reading Record entries once a week

Year 5
● Reading 20 minutes per night ● Practise weekly Spellings ● Practise weekly Times-Tables ● Mathematics once a week (30 mins max) ● Literacy once a week (30 mins max) ● Complete I Can do Maths ● Topic research as required ● Reading Record entries 3 times a week

Year 6
● Reading 20 minutes per night ● Practise weekly Spellings ● Practise weekly Times-Tables ● Mathematics once a week (45 mins max) ● Literacy once a week (45 mins max) ● Complete I Can do Maths ● Topic research as required ● 'Five a Day' four times a week ● Reading Record entries 4 times a week

The role of parents

6.1 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 and when they feel it to be necessary and to 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 library regularly and by discussing the work that their child is doing. Parents are encouraged to speak to the teacher if their child is regularly struggling with homework tasks.

6.2 We ask parents to check the homework and reading diaries daily and to sign it as requested.

7 Use of ICT

7.1 The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

7.2 There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Parents are advised always to supervise their child's access to the internet.

7.3 We discourage children from bringing memory sticks into school because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher might suggest that a child's work is emailed to the class e-mail address at school.

8 Monitoring and review

8.1 It is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team to monitor the school homework policy. Parents have the opportunity to share their views at regular Coffee and Conversation meetings.

8.2 This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.