

The Catholic School of Saint Gregory The Great

Believe and Achieve



HOME LEARNING POLICY

To be read in conjunction with related school policies.

To be reviewed by March 2025

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Catholic School of Saint Gregory The Great recognises the important role that Home Learning can play in the education of children. As a school we have been on an exciting journey to ensure that Home Learning has maximum impact on our children and their progress in a multitude of areas. We strive to ensure that Home Learning is a welcomed addition to family life, motivates our children, offers adequate challenge and supports work that has been taught in class.

The school follows the DfE guidelines for the frequency and content for Home Learning. However, we also recognise the need for children to have the time to follow out of school interests and family activities and the allocations allow for these important things to take place. These are general guidelines, and there may be variations at different times of the year, as teachers match the Home Learning to the needs of their class, and of individuals.

If a child is absent then a copy of the Home Learning will be available in the class on their return. It is the child's responsibility to make sure that they get their Home Learning on their return and find another copy if they mislay their copy.

PUPILS WITH SPECIAL OR ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS:

Although it is seen as important that children identified as having Special Educational Needs do as much in common with other children as possible, there will be occasions when they may benefit from special tasks separate from the Home Learning set for other children in the class. Children who are deemed to be well below the expected level for their year group may be given tasks that are more suitably matched to their ability.

ROLE OF PARENTS AND CARERS IN SUPPORTING PUPILS:

Parents and carers are asked to:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which a child can do Home Learning.
- Make it clear to their child/ren that they value Home Learning and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Support their child if they should ask for help in understanding a task, but not to complete the Home Learning for them.
- Encourage children and praise them when they have completed Home Learning.
- Inform the Class Teacher if the child has been unable to complete the Home Learning for personal or educational reasons.
- To ensure that the child takes regular breaks when using a computer to complete interactive Home Learning tasks (please refer to the acceptable use of ICT policy).
- To request access, with their child, to a computer at school (at a mutually agreeable time) if they have no access to online homework at home.

FREQUENCY AND CONTENT:

The DfE recommended time allocation for Home Learning (to include reading at home) is outlined below. The DfE guidelines state that the precise amount of time spent on Home Learning is much less important than the quality of the tasks.

Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week
Years 3 and 4:	1.5 hours per week
Years 5 and 6:	30 minutes per day (2 ½ hours per week)

Year Group	Activities Per Week
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EYFS	Reading books are changed twice a week and go home each day and children are expected to read with their parent / carer. A home/school planner is provided and will serve as a record of children's reading. Parents / Carers should sign to say that they have heard their child read and discussed the story with their child. They should also use this reading planner to make any relevant comments about their child's reading. It may be that sometimes your child reads something different to their daily reader, if so, please note this in their reading record too. Children will have access to Mathletics (online learning platform) later in the school year. In addition to this, optional termly projects will be given to the children. These will be linked to a topic in class and shared with the class during the term.
KS1 Children	Reading books go home every day and children are expected to read with their parent / carer. A home/school Planner is provided and will serve as a record of children's reading. Parents / Carers should sign to say that they have heard their child read and add in comments about progress to share with the class teacher. It may be that sometimes your child reads something different to their daily reader, if so, please note this in their reading record too. Children will have access to Mathletics (online learning platform) from Term 1, where new activities will be set each Friday. Spellings are given on Friday and handed in on the following Friday. These spellings directly link with our ULS Phonics Scheme. Fewer spellings are given to those children with specific learning needs or those who need more support with phonics. After the February half-term, Year 2 children are given maths homework to help prepare them for SATS.
KS2 Children	Children are expected to read with their parent / carer at least three times during each week. As a school, we would encourage children to develop a love of reading and books and would therefore encourage any child for this reason to read daily. A home/school reading diary is provided and will serve as a record of children's reading. Parents / Carers should sign to say that they have heard their child read and discussed the story with their child. They should also use this reading diary to make any relevant comments about their child's reading. It may be that sometimes your child reads something different to their daily reader, if so, please note this in their reading record too. Children in Years 3-5 will have access to Mathletics from Term 1, where new activities will be set each Friday. Year 6 will be set weekly 'Can Do SATS' maths homework. Spellings are given out on a Friday and handed in and tested on the following Friday. In addition to this, optional termly projects will be given to the children. These will be linked to the class topic and will be shared with the class during the term. In Year 6 if the maths or spelling homework is not complete we would ask them to complete it during their lunchtime.

MARKING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

On a weekly basis, teachers will check to ensure the participation and progress on Mathletics.

Children will be rewarded for their efforts using our whole school rewards system; Dojo points.

If children do not complete their Home Learning, the following procedures will be followed:

- Children will be verbally spoken with about any support we can offer to help them with their Home Learning or any difficulties they are facing to complete or hand in the work. We will endeavour to remove barriers to home learning and this will be noted on CPOMS.
- If Home Learning is still not completed, the class teacher will speak with the child's parents, again to see what support can be offered or to find out if there are any barriers which prevent the Home Learning from being done. Teachers will ensure that parents understand the benefits and importance of homework in aiding the children's acquisition of skills and the depth of their understanding.