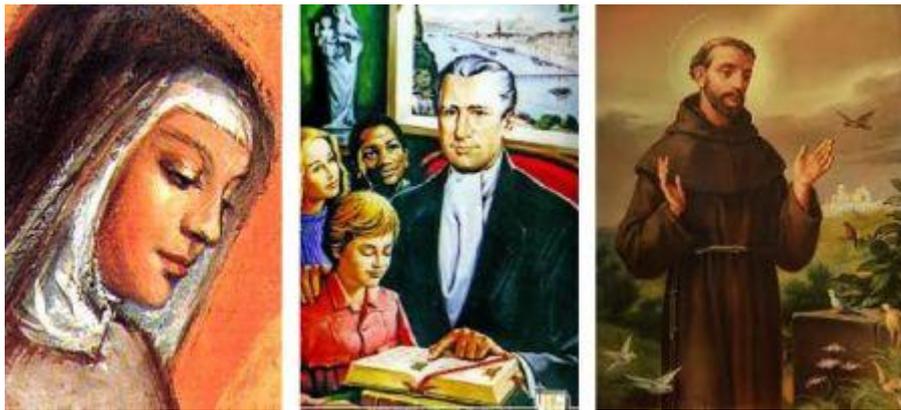


St Clare's Abbey Primary School



# Homework Policy



Ratified By BOG on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015 ( Parental input via parents' working group in term 1 14/15)

Reviewed September 15

January 2016 (Scheduled)

January 2017

June 18 in light of FS changes

Updated April 19 - to take account of audit findings with parents of pupils with SEN and updated year group homework practice.

Updated January 2024 - to take account of use of seesaw and in line with our eco-friendly target to reduce paper waste.

## St. Clare's Abbey Primary School

### Homework Policy.



We view homework as having 3 very important purposes. It provides:

1. Parents / guardians with an insight into the type of work being done in school and involves them in the process of developing good work habits with their son/daughter.
2. An ideal opportunity for revising and practising work that has been covered in school.
3. A family-based context for discovering information to supplement school conducted research.

To ease the homework process we ask parents to:

1. Ensure that homework is completed with as little distraction as possible, ideally on a clear working area, (e.g. desk or table) and with no television or other background noise.
2. Help develop independence within their son/daughter. Teachers of pupils in the infant years will suggest to parents how this can best be done. Parents of older pupils should encourage their child to complete homework carefully and independently. We would recommend spending a little time at the end of the homework time discussing the tasks and checking learning work and reading. **But remember older children do not need to have parents sitting with them for the whole homework time!**
3. Recognise that oral/learning homework is as important as the written and reading tasks and to ensure that each child spends ample time on this part of the homework. We are aware that many families are not clear on how to carry out the learning work in a meaningful way. So, our teachers will send home guidance for Literacy and Numeracy learning work on a regular basis. The focus for non-written homework will be linked to the spelling, grammar and mental maths competence work being covered in class that week.
4. Check to ensure that all homework has been completed and that you are happy with the standard. Please ensure that the weekly test book is signed by parent/guardian.
5. Ensure that homework does not cause upset within the home. If it takes longer than the recommended time, please inform your child's teacher. He/she will very much appreciate your informing him/her and will make arrangements with you to ease the situation.

**Thank you for working so co-operatively with us!**

## Recommended homework times for each primary - DOES THIS INCLUDE READING AND LEARNING HOMEWORK?

Primary and recommended times:
Primary 1 - 15 mins Monday - Thursday
Primary 2 - 20 mins Monday - Thursday
Primary 3 - 30 mins Monday - Thursday
Primary 4 - 35 - 40 mins Monday - Thursday
Primary 5 - 45 mins Monday - Thursday
Primary 6 - 1 hr Monday - Thursday
Primary 7 - 1hr Monday - Thursday

### Homework schedule:

Homework is posted to our SEESAW journal page on a weekly basis. Following consultation with parents we began to issue this each Friday. This is to accommodate working parents, parents who want to spend time at the weekend consolidating work taught in school or parents who want to organise themselves for the week ahead. After each midterm (Halloween and February) and the beginning of each term (following Christmas and Easter) written homework will be reduced. This is to allow for revision periods in school and to give parents and children time to readjust to being back in school after an extended break. At these times the focus will be on Reading, Spellings, Mathematics and Mental Maths. Homework on these weeks will be posted on Monday.

### Promoting Parental 'shoulder to shoulder' Engagement:

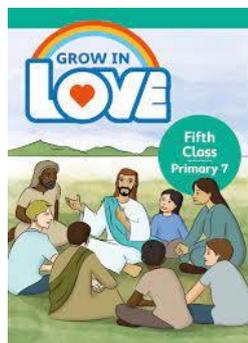
Each term we will post a piece of literacy or numeracy work to your child's seesaw journal. This will be a piece of work which your child has completed in class. It will be marked by your child's teacher either in written format or via a voice note. We ask that you work with your child on this piece of work, talking about the suggestions made by your child's teacher so further improvement can be made and feed back to your child's teacher regarding the work completed or discussed at home. We feel that this 'shoulder to shoulder' partnership with child, parent and teacher brings a third cog to the teaching and learning wheel.

### Homework for pupils with Special/Additional Educational Needs:

From consulting with parents, we know that homework can cause stress for pupils with AEN. We understand that these pupils expend so much energy in school and they can be exhausted when it comes to homework. Considering this, we would be happy for homework to be reduced, however are aware that pupils could perceive this as a negative thing- therefore we work closely with parents to let us know if our homework is not working. There are lots of ways to personalise the work to their child's ability and learning styles. Similarly, many of our SEN pupils receive paper copies of homework rather than accessing this through SEESAW.

### Faith based homework:

NB religion work from Grow in Love series will form part of the homework on an ongoing basis but not each night. During P4 & P7 there will be a lot of RE homework to involve parents in the preparation for sacraments that takes place in these primaries.



### Homework clubs:

In school homework club is held each Monday and Tuesday from 3pm-4.15pm for P4-P7 pupils. We also have a school/community homework facility hosted in Drumalane Community Centre (funding provided by Neighbourhood Renewal and staffed by St. Clare's Abbey). At these, pupils will be shown how to settle quietly to their work, adults will be available to provide clarification re: tasks as needed and pupils will have access to resources that may be needed to assist them with their homework e.g. Seesaw app, dictionary, thesaurus, computer/ipad, times tables squares etc.

Should your child attend homework club we would still like you to read with them, focus on practising the elements of their learning homework (spellings, mental maths competence), ensure they have completed all Mathematics tasks and look at and sign his/ her completed written work at home to ensure that you are keeping yourself informed re: his/her learning.



### Supplementary homework:

Often, we receive parental requests for additional homework. We feel very strongly that the time recommendations for our homework are as much as children in each age group should be given. SO, rather than school providing further worksheets/ pages of maths etc (the marking of which takes up valuable teaching time each day) we urge parents to supplement the formal homework by engaging with their child in tasks similar to the following:

- **Money and shopping related tasks:**

Meaningful conversations about and handling of money either in the shops or at home-based activities using supermarket pamphlets are incredibly important and very underdeveloped in many of our children. (The opportunities to develop number skills and more complex mathematical skills e.g., the concept of percentage discounts, 3 for 2 and Buy One Get One Free etc are endless and so stimulating!)

- **Time telling tasks:**

Teachers note the increasing numbers of pupils who struggle with telling the time. This is a life skill that ought to be taught by a parents' side, families need to allocate time to this. Once telling the time has been conquered pupils should move on to look at time durations e.g. 'look at the programme schedule and tell me how long that programme is going to last.'

- **Reading:**

The joy and benefits to be gained from reading with your child are constantly extolled. Yet so often we hear of families where there is no time to sit down and share the richness of good books together. Using our website <https://www.stclaresabbeyps.com/documents/literacy-guidance/literacy-help/> will give excellent ideas re: how to help your child at home with reading.

Our reading homework will be a combination of physical books related to in class guided reading sessions, books from the Accelerated Reader programme and digital books from our Bug Club platform.

If your child is a reluctant reader spend time with him/her leafing through newspapers or news programmes on the computer. Even the most reluctant of readers engage when there is a willing partner on hand to share and help. We urge parents to participate in the Paired Reading programme which we implement each year in term 2 (a recording explaining this programme and its benefits is available on our school website)

#### Helping Your Child With Reading

##### Paired Reading Programme

###### What is Paired Reading?

- A way in which to help your child raise their achievements in reading.
- Child centred. Most children love it. It helps them want to read.
- An approach which encourages risk taking.



- **Writing:**

Stimulate your child's desire to write by providing him with him/her with lovely real-life experiences e.g. a walk in the forest in Autumn, with lots and lots of chat and talk about what they see, hear, smell etc. The need to develop and extend our children's oral language does not end in the early years. It is so, so important. We use technology to inspire pupils in their writing tasks at home e.g. Newsdesk. This provides a lovely sense of audience and has increased the number of children writing from home. WHO USES NEWSDESK AND HOW OFTEN?



We can easily identify the pupils who have exposure to these rich, real-life experiences. These pupils have a readiness for more complex learning that no amount of worksheets could possibly provide. They astound us with their knowledge and insight into complex tasks. Often people think that a child's academic attainment is solely due to intelligence, however we as educationalists are convinced that the exposure to challenging learning experiences within the home plays a very significant part in high achievement. It is sad for us to see that many families do not have time to make such experiences part of their daily routines and we would urge that the provision of such real life, contextualised activities should very much be developed in the home as a very valuable part of each child's learning. When your child is at school with us, he/she is always one of a large class, but when he/she is at home with you, the opportunities for enhancing knowledge and skill increase rapidly. We urge you to make your time at home with your child really count. It will bear such dividends.

**Computers/Ipads**

There are many great gains to be made from children using home computers/ipads and in fact we have some great programmes that we recommend to parents depending on their child's needs, e.g. Mathletics, Nessy, Lexia, Bug Club. We would however urge parents to be vigilant and ensure that their child is using computer time constructively.

**Monitoring of policy:**

This policy will be monitored at least once during each SDP cycle, or more frequently in response to issues.

## Homework: Week commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January

### Reading homework

1. Read with your child each night. Your child will have one reading book sent home in their homework bag and an online book on Bug Club. Log in cards for Bug Club are stuck inside the front cover of your child's homework book.
2. At least twice a week, spend time learning to read the High Frequency Word group that your child is working on. These will be written on the new set of High Frequency Words sent home. Please watch the video to accompany this as it is so important that these are **words that we do not sound out**.

### Sound homework

This week we continue learn that sounds can be represented by more than one letter.

**Ck** - "We are clicking castanets **ck ck ck**."



**Sh** - Place index finger over lips and say "**sh, sh, sh**."

It is important that the children sound these words out slowly in order to hear each sound in the word.

stick	stuck	trick	unpack	attack
crash	lash	flash	fresh	selfish

N.B. These words are for sounding out and reading only. Your child does not need to write these words in their homework book.

### High Frequency Word Spelling

- Each week in class we will focus on the spelling of 10 high frequency words. At home help your child to become confident with spelling these words. Children should pick 5 of these words and write 5 sentences in their homework book. *Feel free to tailor the amount of writing to suit your child.*
- Refer to Seesaw for an explanation video and the school website for writing support. A photo of how your child should lay this work out in their homework book will be posted to Seesaw also.
- Our target words this week are:

out	as	all	will	look
bed	but	live	today	or

### Numeracy Homework

**Mental maths strategy:** Find numbers before within 20. Please see video uploaded to Seesaw.

**Mathletics activity:** Please log on and complete the Mathletics activity assigned for this week.

**Written activity:** Please complete **Worksheet 3** of the Numeracy Homework workbook and upload a photo of this to Seesaw. This workbook can be kept at home.

## Primary 4 Weekly Homework Grid

Monday	
Numeracy	Mental maths- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (or as much as you feel is appropriate for your child)
Mental Maths	Complete suggested activities/video Mathletics Tasks
Phonics	Spellings (See spelling list in your child's literacy homework book) Pick 5 words from your spellings and complete 5 Sentences <i>or</i> <i>if your child does Nessy/Lexia spend 10 minutes on this programme and write 3 sentences.</i>
Reading	Read your assigned guided reading book. Talk to someone at home about the book.
Tuesday	
Literacy	Complete comprehension page that has been uploaded to Seesaw
Mental Maths	Complete suggested activities/videos Mathletics Tasks
Phonics	SOS (Write each spelling out 3 times)
Reading	Read your assigned guided reading book. Talk to someone at home about the book.

Wednesday	
Numeracy	Mastermaths/worksheet- that has been uploaded to Seesaw
Mental Maths	Complete suggested activities/video Mathletics
Reading	Bug Club- One/Two books per week.
Phonics	Look over your spellings - focus on the tricky parts of the words. Are there little words within big words? Can you think of a similar word?
Thursday	
Literacy	Grammar work uploaded to seesaw Learn Spellings for spelling test tomorrow
Mental Maths	Complete all assigned Mathletics tasks - have you earned 1000 points this week to gain a certificate?  Use video/activity to practise mental maths competence for test tomorrow.
Reading	Bug Club - remember you can quiz on lots of the Bug Club books!

**Have you completed an accelerated reader quiz this week?  
Don't forget - you are working towards achieving a badge this month!**

### Primary 6 sample weekly homework grid.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Spellings- Definitions (6)	Sentences (6)	SOS Spellings	Learn spellings for Friday test News Desk activity
Mental Maths Target Watch Mental Maths video	Mental Maths target	Mental Maths target	Mental Maths target
Comprehension	Mental Maths Book	Grammar Activity	Numeracy
Reading Book	Reading Book	Reading Book	Bug Club

**Mathletics:** Do the tasks set for the week. If completed go on to Live Mathletics. Aim for 1000 points per week.

**Nessy:** Nessy users 20 mins, 3 times per week.

**Lexia:** Lexia users 20 mins, 3 times per week.

**Accelerated Reader:** Remember to keep reading and complete your quiz when you have completed a book.