



St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

An Academy within The Catholic Academy Trust in South Hampshire

'Children in our heart, Christ at the centre'
'We love, we learn and we live'



Name of Policy	Homework Policy
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Headteacher	Katrina Straker
Chair of Standards & Admission sub-committee	Anne Taylor
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Homework Policy



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**'Children in our heart, Christ at the centre'
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The St Anthony's mission statement is 'Children in our heart, Christ at the centre. We love, we learn and we live.' To live out this mission, we are guided and led by our Catholic ethos that places the Catholic Social Teaching principles of Human Dignity and the Common Good at the heart of our school. We recognise that each of us is unique and loved by God and we are called to lead by example, as Christ did, to show respect and love to every person because each of us is made in the image of God.

Education Endowment Fund: 'It is certainly the case that schools whose pupils do homework tend to be more successful.'

Rational/Aims

- To help pupils become literate and numerate and to use their skills of literacy and numeracy in order to communicate effectively.
- To help children have a 'little and often' approach to practise their reading, spelling and arithmetic work to embed their knowledge and skills – based on retrieval practice research.
- To give pupils the opportunity of pre-learning through project homework.

St Anthony's is committed to raising standards. We recognise the importance of consistent expectations through all phases.

We believe that homework is important in the following areas:

- reinforcing positive attitudes to work;
- encouraging self-organisation and self-discipline;
- reinforcing, broadening and extending the school curriculum;
- developing home/school partnerships;
- ensuring that pupils are able to deal with the workload when beginning secondary school;
- preparing pupils for life opportunities and experiences.

Parent homework expectations are below.

SEND and High Attaining Children

Homework is adapted to meet the needs of all of our pupils. Please see our SEND and High Attainers Policy.

Monitoring of Homework

The homework monitoring process is on the final page of this policy.

ST ANTHONY'S HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS

Weekly Homework

At St Anthony's, we value the importance of retrieval practice because the regular revision of concepts helps to commit them to long-term memory. This is something that we do daily in school and is also the basis for the homework that we set. We believe in a 'little and often' approach to homework. The children already work so hard in school and we do not wish to tire them out when they get home, but we also appreciate how beneficial regular revision can be, both to their current academic achievement as well as to prepare them for when they start at secondary school.

All children from Year 1 to Year 6 have a homework folder containing their spellings, an arithmetic book and their reading journal. Our homework expectations include: daily reading of 15 minutes, practise of 8-10 spellings and 6 arithmetic questions to complete each day. As homework is daily, to help children improve their future learning and prevent them from making the same mistake on subsequent days, parents are asked to check/mark the children's answers and correct any mistakes as they occur. The class LSA will check homework has been completed when children bring it in on a Monday morning.

Children in Year R will complete daily reading, sound writing sheets and 'super six' sight vocabulary practise. From the summer term, Year R will begin spellings and arithmetic homework to prepare them for Year 1.

Homework projects

In addition to daily homework, with the exception of Years R & 1, all children will be set a voluntary holiday homework project in the week before a school holiday/half term break. This gives children a week to complete the project before the break if they wish, particularly if families are going away. The benefits of completing the voluntary homework project are:

- it teaches children valuable research skills;
- the children pre-learn a bit about their next theme and come to school feeling enthusiastic to share what they have found out;
- by presenting their project to the rest of the class, children are developing confidence in speaking and listening skills that are so important in today's world.

The completion of the holiday projects is positively recognised through the award of house points to children who have submitted a project with bonus house points for those who have clearly put in additional hours of effort. These are recorded on holiday project certificates which are given to children to take home.

We hope that by making the projects voluntary, parents can see that we recognise there are times when families may struggle to fit it in alongside other holiday commitments. However, we hope that families will try to find time for the projects wherever possible for the reasons given above.

We would like to thank parents for the help and support that they give their children at home, particularly at the start of each academic year when the children are adapting to the academic demands of their new year group. Parents who are struggling to ensure their child completes their homework each week, are encouraged to speak to the class teacher so that as a school, we are able to help and ensure that children receive all of the benefits of completing their homework regularly. For children who regularly do not complete their homework, the Key Stage Leader will run a weekly homework club at lunchtime. Please see the table below/overleaf for details of expectations in this regard.

Monitoring of Homework

<p>St Anthony's would like to stress that we want to work in partnership with parents to ensure that each child receives all of the benefits of regularly completing their homework. If there are any issues that parents are encountering with regards to their child and homework, parents are encouraged to contact us so that we can help before the following occurs:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly homework not brought in/homework incomplete once 	<p>Discussion with class teacher about why this is. We would expect that, barring any extenuating circumstances, the homework would be brought in the next day.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly homework not brought in/incomplete twice 	<p>Children will be asked to speak to their Key Stage Leader to explain why they have not completed their homework.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly homework not brought in/incomplete three times 	<p>Children will need to stay in on a Wednesday lunchtime with a Key Stage Leader to ensure that homework is completed.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has stayed in on two Wednesdays to complete homework 	<p>A member of the Senior Leadership Team will call the child's parents to discuss issues with homework.</p>

Stickers will be used to encourage the completion of homework: one expresses a thank you for completing homework on time and one will be used to remind families of the importance of completing homework. These stickers will be used in reading records and/or arithmetic booklets.