

## **St Michael's Catholic Primary School**

### **Homework Policy**

In formulating and applying this policy, the Governing Body and Staff of our Catholic school seek to promote and implement in relevant ways the aims and intentions of the Mission Statement, '*Praise the Lord in Work, Play and Prayer*', that has been agreed by the whole school community.

We are committed to taking all possible steps to positively promote equality of opportunity for all members of our school community, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, attainment and background.

This policy will be available to staff, pupils and parents and will be promoted among them.

The aims of the Homework Policy are:

- To develop an effective partnership between the school, parents and other carers.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- To encourage further learning.
- To encourage the pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own.
- To enable pupils to view homework as a beneficial experience.

In the Home School Contract parents are asked to work in partnership with the school to ensure that any set homework assignments are completed and handed in on time. Parents' co-operation in this regard is much appreciated.

In turn the Home School Contract states that staff within the school will make sure that homework is set according to the stated guidelines and that children understand the task that is set for them. Staff will also take account of the time that is available for a given assignment and ensure that the time scale is realistic and that pupils have a clear understanding as to when work is expected to be handed in.

Staff will check and mark homework as appropriate.

#### **Key Stage One**

For Key Stage 1 pupils, reading books will be taken home on a regular basis. Parents are asked to support and encourage their children in the development of their reading skills and encourage the reading of a wider range of literature than can be offered by the school scheme. The home/school liaison diary can be used as one of the communication links between home and school. Parents are reminded that they are given guidance about the use of the home/school diary at the meeting that is held regarding the development of reading skills and is also contained in the written

information that is given to parents as children enter school. As the children progress through Key Stage 1, aspects of language and maths work may be set as tasks. Parents may be assured that the tasks given will be within the range of the child's capabilities and will actively encourage the child's learning.

The tasks set, such as simple games, learning words/spellings and number facts will be determined by the class teacher who will have regards to the needs of the individual child.

## **Key Stage 2**

Once the children begin their education in Key Stage 2 homework will be set on a regular basis. As the children progress through the national curriculum homework commitments will increase and assignments may cover work in both core and foundation subjects. Where the task is of a more in-depth nature children should be encouraged to work for the recommended amount of time each night or to work in blocks of time to develop their responsibility for their own learning and the quality of the end result.

Assignments will be appropriate to the needs of the individual. Children with specific needs may have a further homework programme to address the learning targets that appear on individual education plans.

The Government recommend that children should be allocated homework within the following time guidelines. St. Michael's takes account of this guidance.

### **Timetable of hours of homework to be given depending on age of child.**

Every school must consider how much time is appropriate for pupils at each stage and according to their aptitude. The Government's recommended time allocation based on current good practice, is set out in the DCSF Guidance regarding homework:

Years 1 and 2	1 hour per week	Reading, spellings, other literacy work and number work
Years 3 and 4	1.5 hours per week	Literacy and numeracy as for Years 1 and 2 with occasional assignments in other subjects
Years 5 and 6	30 minutes per day	Regular weekly schedule with continued emphasis on literacy and numeracy but also ranging widely over the curriculum

Parents may wish to contact the Civic Centre to find out more information about out of school learning centres that operate in the local area.

Should any parents wish to discuss any matters relating to the school policy on homework they should contact Mrs Williams.

The Homework Policy will be monitored and evaluated by the senior management team.

## APPENDIX

### St Michael's Catholic Primary School

#### Homework

#### Guidance for Parents

You can help your child by:

1. Providing a quiet place for your child to work.
2. Encouraging them to value their homework.
3. Ensuring that your child produces work of a high standard.
4. Encouraging and praising them when they have completed their set tasks.
5. Signing their work to show they completed the work or if the task was not completed, a short explanation of why.

Reviewed and adopted by Governors 10 December 2009