



Stella Maris School

# Homework Policy

Updated: September 2019

Review due: September 2020

Stella Maris School is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of all members of the school. All school staff and volunteers who work in the school are expected to share this commitment and vision.

This Policy was written in consultation with the Trustees, Headteacher and the staff of Stella Maris School with due regard to our mission statement.

*“At Stella Maris we endeavour to put the children at the centre of everything we do. Our mission is to educate, nurture and instil traditional values and cherish our children. We inspire them to achieve their best in every aspect of their lives.”*



## Homework Policy

### STELLA MARIS SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

1. Homework is set in accordance with the homework policy to support and extend the Curriculum. Where applicable, all homework must be marked in accordance with the school's Marking Policy.
2. Weekly timetabled homework will be set in various areas. In general terms the majority of a pupil's homework will be Mathematics and English. However, when appropriate, homework will be set in other subject areas and may include activities such as the learning of lines for the school productions for example, at key points in the year.
3. At the beginning of the academic year each child will receive a weekly class timetable. A copy of this timetable will be sent home with information about the expected weekly homework.
4. All homework set should be recorded in the pupil's reading books or homework diaries. Older children are expected to take responsibility for the accurate recording of homework activities set.
5. The homework set by teachers will exist in many different forms (e.g. reading or researching for information, obtaining resources for a lesson, revising work, learning spellings/multiplication tables, completing set exercises, catching up on missed work etc).

The exact format used for homework is at the teacher's own professional discretion. Homework should involve tasks of quality and relevance and should always be followed up in class. Whilst some homework tasks may require involvement from parents it would be expected that a greater degree of independence is required as pupils progress through the school. It is therefore very important that homework tasks can be completed by our pupils. If parental help is specifically required for a particular task this will be made clear to parents through the reading record book or in separate written guidance if more appropriate.

6. Staff should avoid regularly asking children to finish off classwork as a homework task as this may result in more able pupils receiving very little or no homework to support or extend their curriculum; slow working or less able pupils, on the other hand, may find themselves frequently receiving large amounts of classwork to finish off at home without the vital teacher support they need.
7. When homework is set it should usually be completed during that evening, where practical, unless it is set as weekend homework. However, project work may well be set over a longer and more extended period.
8. If pupils fail to produce homework this should be recorded by the class teacher and acted upon.



## Homework Policy

### **EXPECTATIONS**

All children from Year 1 upwards are required to do some homework during the week. The amount of time spent on doing this work varies according to the individual class but the work set will only be of a reasonable quantity.

If your son or daughter experiences problems with the homework please contact their class teacher directly. We do not expect children to struggle on for an inordinate amount of time trying to complete an assignment they do not understand. Equally, we see no benefit in looking at a piece of work that has more parental input than child input!

At the start of each year your child will be given information concerning our homework expectations. As well as doing formal work at home we also expect children to read every night. This is an essential tool in ensuring that the children become fluent and confident readers. This will impact on every part of the Curriculum. To this end each child is issued with a reading record book. We hope that you will enjoy hearing your child read and look forward to your regular comments in the **reading record book**. This book also plays a vital role as a communication tool between class teacher and parent. Consequently, please ensure that your child brings it home every day and that they keep it in a safe place, is signed by a parent or guardian and returned to school next day.

### **CLASS PLANS FOR WEEKLY HOMEWORK**

#### **Pre-prep**

##### **PP2**

- Sets of letters sounds from September
- Sets of high frequency words
- Reading - 2 books a week, when ready (usually midway through the Autumn Term)
- Spellings - weekly set of 5 from January

##### **PP1 and 2**

Occasional tasks and worksheets linked to our class topics.

#### **K.S 1**

##### **Year 1 Homework:**

Daily – reading (10-15 minutes)

Weekly:-

- Bond Book -alternate between English and Maths, (weekend HW -30 mins)
- Dependant upon ability – weekly reading comprehension (weekend HW 15-20 mins)
- Spellings (10) (1 week to complete, 5-10 mins daily)
- Spellings sentences (10) (week to complete, 15-20 mins)



## **Homework Policy**

### **Year 2 Homework**

Daily - reading (10-15 minutes)

Weekly:-

- Spelling Sentences – 10 spellings to be given out at the beginning of the week to be practised and written into sentences for a test the following Monday (10 -15 mins)
- Maths or English Bond Books to be given out on alternate Fridays and to be handed in on Monday (30 mins maximum)
- Times Tables - to be practised at home, frequently and regularly (specifically 10x 5x 2x 3x 4x)
- If necessary, additional worksheets may be sent home to consolidate learning or may be linked to topic work

## **K.S.2**

### **Year 3 and 4 Homework**

Daily – Reading (10 minutes)

Weekly:-

- Monday – Spellings given out for a test on Fridays. Associated with spellings (handwriting, definition work, etc) (20 mins)
- Tuesday – Mathematics work based on class work (20 mins)
- Wednesday – Reading Comprehension (20 mins)
- Thursday – Verbal Reasoning – Bond (20 mins)
- Friday – either writing task (30 mins) or extra reading task (20 mins) or Bond Book (20 mins)

### **Year 5 Homework**

40 - 50 minutes per evening

20 minutes reading (extra)

Weekly:-

- Monday – Language Activity/Bond Language Paper
- Tuesday – Mathematics - Based on classwork/Mental Arithmetic Paper/Bond Paper
- Wednesday – Mathematics Learning Homework/Methods Homework
- Thursday - (For Friday) Mathematics/Language - Related to class topic
- Thursday – Homework for Weekend given out

Verbal/Non-Verbal Reasoning Bond Paper, Mathematics, Language activity, Spellings for next Friday.



## **Homework Policy**

Homework for the weekend will be sent home on a Thursday evening to be returned on Monday. This homework will be spread across Thursday night to Sunday and it is expected that it will require at least 2 hours of concentrated work.

During the Spring and Summer Terms the children will complete past Examination Papers from the various Grammar Schools as homework activities.

The expectation for Year 5 is that each evening children will engage in homework activities lasting between 40 to 50 minutes. The focus will be on Maths, English, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning. Children are also expected to read for about 20 minutes each evening.

This level and quantity of homework is vital in preparation for Year 6 and the Entrance Examination Process.

## **Year 6 Homework**

During the Autumn Term of Year 6 the children will be engaged in preparation work for their Grammar School Entrance exams. Much of the preparation and revision will take place as homework activities.

- At least 20 mins of reading each evening
- Spellings and Meanings sent home on a Monday afternoon for a test on Friday morning
- Maths/English or Reasoning exercises set on a daily basis (45mins – 1 hr)
- A more extended set of HW exercises set on a Thursday for the weekend

The expectation is that each evening children will engage in homework activities of between 45 mins and an hour. The focus will be on Maths, English and Reasoning. Children are also expected to read for about 20 mins each evening.

Weekend homework will be sent home on a Thursday evening to be returned on Monday. Weekend homework will require at least 2 hours of work spread across Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

During the Spring and Summer Terms, when the Grammar School exams are over, the quantity of homework will be reduced. It will focus on extending mathematical and reasoning skills and project work.

This level of homework greatly assists the children as they move into senior school and lays solid foundations for their future and the expectations of secondary school homework.

**This information is for general guidance only and is subject to change at certain points in the year.**