



Stella Maris School

Homework Policy

Updated: Sept. 2025
Review Date: Sept 2026

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.

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.”

STELLA MARIS SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY – Sept. 2025

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. Homework is set on each school day and the approximate total time allocation will be as follows. Pupils may at the teacher's discretion, receive up to double the above time allocations during the weekends. These times are for guidance only and there will obviously need to be flexibility within them.
3. Weekly timetabled homework will be set in the following areas:-
 - In general terms most of the a pupil's homework will be Mathematics and English. However when appropriate homework will be set in other subject areas, including foundation stage subjects and the learning of lines for the school productions for example.
4. At the beginning of each academic year each child's weekly class timetable. A copy of this timetable is included in 'The New Parents Handbook'.
5. All homework set should be recorded in the pupil's reading books or homework diaries. Class teachers should also keep a record of all homework set so that pupils can check the work set.
6. 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 therefore at the teacher's own professional discretion.

7. 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 separate written guidance if more appropriate.
8. 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 that they may need.
9. 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 extended period.
10. If pupils fail to produce homework this should be recorded by the class teacher and acted upon.

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 experience problems with the homework please contact their class teacher directly. We do not expect children to struggle on for hours on end trying to complete and assignment that they do not understand. Equally we see no benefit in looking at a piece of work that has more parental input than the child input!

At the start of each year your child will be given information concerning our homework expectation. 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.

CLASS PLANS FOR WEEKLY HOMEWORK

Pre-prep homework

PP2

- Sets of letters sounds from September.
- Sets of high frequency words.
- Reading, 2 books a week, when ready usually midway through autumn term.
- Spellings weekly set of 5 from January.

PP1 and 2

Occasional tasks and worksheet, linked to the topic.

Year 1 Homework:

Daily – reading (10-15 minutes)

Weekly:-

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

Year 2 Homework

Daily - reading (10-15 minutes)

Weekly:-

- Spelling sentences – 10 spellings given out on a Monday, each spelling is to be practised and written into a sentence for the following Monday's test. (10-15 minutes)
- Bond Books – either Maths or English given out on a Friday to be returned on Monday (30 minutes approx.)
- Total time of 1 hour – 1 hr 30 minutes, longer may be spent on reading for enjoyment
- Increase in Spring term, as above and then:
- Comprehensions – dependent on ability level, one or two comprehensions to be completed a week as part of homework (15-20 minutes approx)
- Times tables – to be practised at home as well as in school
- Where necessary some additional sheets may be sent home for consolidation of learning or homework based on topic work.

Year 3 and 4 Homework Plan

Daily – Reading (10 minutes)

Weekly -

- Monday – Spellings given out for Fridays test. Associated with spellings (handwriting, definition work, etc) (20 minutes)
- Tuesday – Mathematics work based on class work (20 minutes)
- Wednesday – Reading Comprehension (20 minutes)
- Thursday – verbal Reasoning – Bond (20 minutes)

- Friday – either writing task (30 minutes) or extra reading task (20 minutes) or Bond book (20 minutes)

Year 5

50 minutes per evening

20 minutes reading (extra)

Year 6

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 HW 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 HW activities of between 45 minutes and an hour. The focus will be on Maths, English and Reasoning. Children are also expected to read for about 15 minutes each evening.

Weekend HW will be sent home on a Thursday evening to be returned on Monday. Weekend HW 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 HW will be reduced. It will focus on extending mathematical and reasoning skills and project work.

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