



St James CE Academy

Homework Policy

Here at St James', we believe that everyone is loved, this will allow all to flourish and unlock their potential whilst promoting joy in lifelong learning. We will use our faith, God's words and the light he gives to support this.

Unlocking potential and flourishing

"I can do all things through Christ; who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

Joy in Lifelong learning

"Put these abilities to work; throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone may notice your improvement and progress."

1Timothy 4:15

Everyone is Loved

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you"

John 15:12

Approved by Governing Body: November 2023

Date of Review: November 2025



Homework Policy

At St James C of E Academy we value the relationship between school and home. This also includes the role that families play in supporting their children with their learning. Homework provides families with opportunities to work in collaboration and maintain a focus on what their children are learning in school and what help their children need with their learning.

The **Education Endowment Foundation** (EEF) defines homework:

Homework refers to tasks given to pupils by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons.

Homework activities vary significantly, particularly between younger and older pupils, including but not limited to home reading activities, longer projects or essays and more directed and focused work such as revision for tests.

Our definition also includes activities such as 'homework clubs' where pupils have the opportunity to complete homework in school but outside normal school hours, and 'flipped learning' models, where pupils prepare at home for classroom discussion and application tasks.

The EEF Teaching and Learning toolkit states that homework can impact a child's academic performance positively by an additional 5 months academic progress. The following link provides more details

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework?utm_source=/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=site_search&search_term=home

What do our families say about homework? (Review conducted in September 2023)

Almost 70% of families report that there is either always or sometimes tension in the household that is caused by homework, with children's outside of school commitments being the greatest barrier to being able to complete their homework along with time being spent with families, which we also place as a priority for everyone.

The majority of St James families state that they prefer homework to include written work with fewer on-screen activities being set.

Families with children in Years 5 and 6 expect their children to have more homework than those in Lower Key Stage 2.

Two-thirds of our families prefer to have more academic based activities over the more creative type activities – with many families stating reading, spelling and multiplication tables being homework that they think their children should complete on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

It also appears that the homework set is not always pitched appropriately to the children's current attainment.

What have the Senior Leadership Team agreed?

- That homework must be set on a **weekly** basis.
- That homework expectations will be different for Year 3 and 4 compared to Year 5 and 6.

- That teachers will provide a mixture of 'on-screen' and 'written' activities.
- That teachers will provide a **range** of tasks that are both **academic** and **creative** and vary in pitch and expectation.
- That class teacher's **workload** will be under consideration, so that their time is spent on the **most impactful** tasks.

What will homework look like?

For Year 3 and 4:

- Spelling Shed will be completed bi-weekly.*
- Times Tables Rock Stars battles will be completed bi-weekly.*
- A range of academic and creative tasks will be available each half term.^
- Reading should be completed 3 times a week as a minimum.

* Both Spelling Shed and TTRS have unrestricted access.

^ There is no obligation for these tasks to be completed



For Year 5:

- Spelling Shed will be completed weekly.
- Times Tables Rock Stars battles will be completed weekly.
- A range of academic and creative tasks will be available each half term.^
- Reading should be completed 3 times a week as a minimum.

^ There is no obligation for these tasks to be completed

For Year 6:

- Spelling Shed will be completed weekly.
- Times Tables Rock Stars battles will be completed weekly.
- Reading should be completed 3 times a week as a minimum.
- Additional SATs based activities may be given as and when necessary



What are our expectations?

Spelling shed should be accessed a minimum of 2 times during a week so that the children complete a minimum of 10 games across a week and every two weeks for Year 3 and 4 pupils.

Times Tables Rock Stars should be accessed during a week so that the children score a minimum of 1000 coins across a fortnight for Year 3 and 4 and 2000 coins for Year 5 and 6 across a week.

Written and/or creative pieces should be handed in to school as and when completed remembering that there is no obligation to complete these tasks.

Reading should be recorded in the reading diaries that will be checked weekly by an adult in school.

Banded/Levelled reading books will be changed when necessary and library books will be changed weekly.

What happens if homework is not completed?

A member of staff will provide an opportunity once a week for pupils to attend a homework club. This is a chance for children to complete homework tasks in positive atmosphere.

There will be a prize draw every half term for a prize that is the equivalent of £20. Each child who completes the weekly expectations will be entered into the prize draw. Prizes will vary in content, but not in cost.