St James C of E Academy

Home Learning Policy

"Here at St James we believe that 'everyone is loved, this will allow all to flourish and unlock their potential promoting joy in lifelong learning. We will use our faith, Gods 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

Policy adopted: October 2026
Date of next review: October 2028

Homework Policy

Introduction

At St James, we believe that learning should be engaging, meaningful and supportive of children's wellbeing. We recognise the value of home learning in reinforcing classroom teaching, developing independence, and strengthening partnerships between home and school. We also understand that families have different circumstances and commitments. Therefore, we have adopted an **Opt-In / Opt-Out Homework Approach** for most curriculum-based homework tasks.

Aims

The aims of our homework policy are to:

- Consolidate and extend learning that takes place in school.
- Encourage independent learning and responsibility.
- Promote positive partnerships between home and school.
- Foster a love of learning beyond the classroom.
- Develop good study habits in preparation for future education.

Curriculum Homework Grid

At the beginning of each term, children will receive a new **Homework Challenge Grid** in their homework book.
The grid will contain a range of activities linked to current curriculum topics and learning across subjects. Activities are designed to be creative, practical and engaging, allowing children to showcase their learning in different ways.
In keeping with our commitment to inclusion, children with SEND may be offered adapted or alternative homework activities that are carefully matched to their individual needs, strengths and targets, ensuring that all pupils can access and experience success in home learning.

Opt-In Approach

Children and families may choose how many of the grid activities they complete during the term.

Children who choose to participate and return completed homework challenges will be entered into a **termly random reward prize draw**, with the opportunity to win a **£20 Amazon voucher**.

The focus of this approach is to encourage participation through motivation, enjoyment and personal achievement rather than through compulsory completion.

Opt-Out Approach

Families who choose not to complete the curriculum homework grid will not face any sanctions. We recognise that extracurricular commitments, family circumstances and individual needs vary.

However, all children are expected to maintain the core learning expectations outlined below.

Core Learning Expectations

Whilst curriculum homework tasks are optional, the following activities form part of our essential home learning provision and are expected for all pupils:

Reading

Children are expected to:

- Read at home a minimum of **three times per week**.
- Have their Reading Record signed by a parent, carer or responsible adult.
- Receive a written response, comment or discussion point within their Reading Record where appropriate.

Regular reading is one of the most important ways families can support their child's progress across the curriculum.

Times Tables

Children are expected to:

- Complete regular **Times Tables Rock Stars** sessions each week.
- Continue practising multiplication and division facts to improve fluency and confidence.

Spellings

Children are expected to:

- Learn and practise their weekly spellings.
- Complete any spelling activities provided by their class teacher.
- Apply their spelling knowledge within their written work.

Year 6 Homework Expectations

As pupils prepare for the end of Key Stage 2 and their transition to secondary education, Year 6 children will receive a more structured homework offer.

This may include:

- Weekly English and mathematics tasks.
- SATs preparation activities.
- Revision materials and practice questions.
- Reading, spelling and multiplication practice.

These expectations are intended to help pupils build the study habits and independence required for success both in SATs assessments and during their transition to Key Stage 3.

Celebrating Achievement

We value and celebrate children's efforts in home learning. Homework completed from the challenge grid may be:

- Shared in class.
- Displayed around school.
- Celebrated in assemblies.
- Rewarded through the termly prize draw.

Reviewing the Policy

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it continues to support children's learning, wellbeing and engagement with home learning.

Together, we aim to promote a positive culture of learning where children are encouraged to explore, create and achieve both in school and at home.