



**St. Gabriel's CofE Primary School**  
**"Teaching & Learning outside the classroom" policy**

**Date written: Autumn 2014**

**Updated: Autumn 2015**

**Date of last review: Summer 2018**

**Date of next review: Summer 2020**

This policy was written as a result of three staff meetings held with teaching staff in March, April and May 2014 and a further staff meeting in July 2015. Staff tested different methods of ensuring homework was effective and have agreed that the system outlined below will ensure that the aims of the policy are met.

**Aims**

1. That the work that St. Gabriel's pupils undertake at home ensures their highest possible achievement
2. That the Teaching and Learning outside school complements St. Gabriel's in-school Teaching & Learning policy
3. That, through daily reading at home, pupils achieve the highest standards of literacy and develop a lifelong love of reading
4. That, through daily reading at home and through homework, pupils develop excellent learning behaviours and develop effective habits for learning at home to aid effective transition to Key Stage 3
5. That, by encouraging the support of parents and a daily dialogue about reading, parents are able to support – and be involved in – their child's reading.

**Frequency of homework across the school**

The frequency table below sets out the amount of homework expected per year group.

Year group	Length of time reading EVERY night	Frequency of mathematics activities for homework per week	Frequency of Grammar for writing activities for homework per week	Frequency of spelling homework per week	Frequency of handwriting activities for homework per week	Frequency of creative curriculum and creative activities for homework
Reception	20 mins ****	1	1 literacy per week			Every time topic changes
Class 1	30 mins ****	1	1	1	1	Every half term **
Class 2	20 mins	2	2	1	1	Every half term
Class 3	25 mins	3	2	1	1	Every half term
Class 4	30 mins	3	3	1	1	Every half term
Class 5	40 mins	4 *****	3	1	1	Every half term
Class 6	45 mins	5 *****	5 *** *****	1	1	Every half term

\* handwriting in Reception will take the form for many pupils of patterns and formations

\*\* Creative curriculum and creative activities should be accompanied by a small pack of resources for pupils to use to complete the activity (as a minimum), to support pupils that don't have access to creative materials.

\*\*\* may also include reading comprehension papers in run up to end of key stage assessments

\*\*\*\* reading in reception and Class 1 will almost certainly be done with an adult

\*\*\*\*\* The five 20 minute activities may be spread over fewer sheets

## **Daily Reading**

- All pupils in the school are expected to read for a significant (and age appropriate) amount of time every night. This includes weekends where there is an expectation of three recorded reading sessions (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).
- Every child in school is expected to record their reading in a reading log book every night.
- Parents are expected to sign the reading record books each night (7 days-per-week – including weekends)
- A member of school staff is expected to sign the reading record book during the school day, before it is returned to the pupils for reading at night. The signing of the reading log book is the responsibility of the class teacher who will often delegate the signing to an LSA. It is also the responsibility of the class teacher to keep a daily log (available on request) of signed reading logs – this will inform conversations with parents, staff meetings and parents evening presentations. A member of Senior Leadership or teachers may also sign on the playground before school.
- Teachers should guide children in selecting an age-appropriate book to read from a mixture of genres and fiction & non-fiction. They will also encourage children to read from the St. Gabriel's reading lists and write book reports

## **Weekly homework**

'Packs' of homework should be created during the week and will normally be distributed to pupils on a Friday (this might vary by class).

- Homework activities for mathematics to be primarily calculation based to supplement the concentration on mathematical fluency done at school and take into account the increased Calculation focus in the National Curriculum 2014.
- Homework activities for literacy to be primarily Grammar based to supplement the composition focused work at school and to take into account increased focus on grammar in national Curriculum 2014.
- Spelling homework to be produced and given out weekly to pupils and tested weekly
- Instructions for handwriting activities to be included in the homework pack. Handwriting activities will vary per year group, from patterns in YR, letter formation in Y1, emerging joins in Y2, common joins in Y3 and Y4 and transcription in Y5 and 6. The expectations are laid out in the new National curriculum. Pupils should have a handwriting book or handwriting sheet which they take home to complete these tasks (with appropriate spacing of lines dependent on year group).
- The homework pack for each week should also contain sheets showing parents how they can help

## **Half termly homework**

On a half-termly basis, teachers will send home Creative Curriculum homework packs with more creative homework activities for pupils.

- Where these activities are creative, teachers and LSAs will prepare packs of materials for pupils that don't have access to them
- Teachers will make it clear that there is an expectation that these activities should be completed by children, not adults, although will stress that collaborative work where pupils and adults work together is preferred.

### **Timing of homework packs & rewards / consequences**

- Homework packs to be mainly given out on a Friday (there may be some class-by-class or week-by-week variation in this dependent on circumstance).
- It will be expected that pupils bring the completed homework packs back on a Wednesday
- Failure to bring homework in on time, may result in a class specific consequence determined at the teacher's discretion
- LSAs to keep a tick sheet for each pupil regarding homework completed and handed in for use by teachers at Parents Evenings (similar to reading system)

### **Pitch and activities**

- Activities should complement the Teaching & learning policy by offering pupils the opportunity to consolidate and practice skills at home.
- Pitch of the activities should be taken from the new National curriculum and may be differentiated.

### **Marking**

- LSAs to mark homework packs from Wednesday
- Homework to be given back out to pupils once marked.