

SARRATT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Laying the foundations for our children to be confident, respectful and to achieve their full potential.

Date of Review:	September 2025
Next Review Date:	September 2027
Reviewer	SLT

Introduction

At Sarratt C of E Primary School, we believe that homework plays an important part in a child's education. Providing opportunities for parents to become actively involved in their child's learning is key in enabling them to achieve their potential. We aim to enable children to take an increasing responsibility for their own learning, to become independent thinkers and develop the key skill of perseverance. Finally, we aim to provide opportunities which allow our pupils to practise and consolidate skills whilst also taking into account the need for developmental play, engagement in clubs and activities, and family life.

Fundamentally, we believe in encouraging our children to be lifelong learners – we hope to build on children's interests and enthusiasm by making learning fun. Learning should be relevant and engaging, wherever it takes place – in school, on the sports pitch or in the home.

We also recognise the finding of research conducted by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) who have discovered that *'Overall, homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning.'*

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/resources/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework-primary/

We also recognise the benefits of homework:

- To reinforce the partnership between home and school.
- To allow pupils to consolidate what is being taught in class and to provide revision opportunities (especially for older pupils).
- To allow pupils to learn in a more unstructured setting, encouraging them to be independent and follow their own lines of enquiry.
- To develop study habits and independence.

As a school we are mindful of all of the above and so have carefully considered our homework expectations, taking into account current research and intended impact on learning.

Our homework expectations therefore include the following:

Home Reading:

"By starting the journey of building a lifelong love of reading for pleasure, parents are giving their child the opportunity to be the best they can be: children who read for pleasure do better in a wide range of subjects at school and it also positively impacts children's wellbeing."

The National Literacy Trust, 2020

It is essential that reading plays a key role in home learning. We encourage our parents to set aside some time each evening for children to experience reading – either listening to their child, reading to their child, independent reading once fluent or maybe a combination of all three. Reading at home is recorded, checked and communicated through the Home/ School Reading Diary.

Spelling:

Learning words within the context of reading and writing is an important contributing factor to becoming a successful speller. As well as learning individual words, children should be encouraged to use the word in a wider context. Children could be encouraged to explore the rules that they are learning so that they can apply their knowledge to a wider spelling context.

We set weekly spelling lists aligned to spelling rules and patterns set out in the National Curriculum. We recognise that children can struggle to learn long lists of spellings, we therefore recommend a little and often approach, splitting the weekly list into manageable chunks.

Maths Skills:

Fluency in maths skills (e.g. number bonds, times tables, telling the time) is another aspect that can have a big impact on children's learning. Scientific research has proven that the human brain has limited 'thinking space'; so storing basic facts in long-term memory helps when working on difficult problems. We advise that children practise these basic skills until they know them 'by heart'. In the lower school this will involve securing number bonds. As the children move through Year 2, they will begin to practise times tables and complete tasks and games set using Times Table Rock Stars.

Additional Information:

As children approach national tests, they may be given some revision tasks to help prepare them for the upcoming assessments. Tasks and materials will be shared with the class on Google Classroom throughout Year 6.

In Key Stage Two, children are encouraged to engage in and share learning outside of the classroom with their teacher and peers using Google Classroom.

We understand that whatever the task, some children love working on their own, completely independent of adult help, and some children prefer to work with support – even if it's just to motivate and keep on track. Either is fine – we want your child to feel comfortable as they learn.

Please contact your class teacher if you ever have any questions about homework tasks or projects.