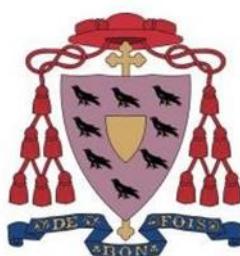




Homework Policy

Review Date:	September 2027
Adopted	March 2025



Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

Striving for excellence, inspired by Gospel values.

School Ethos Statement

At St. Aloysius we live of our life according to the Gospel and our school Mission statement. ***'Live Life to the Full.'***
John 10:10

St. Aloysius Promise

- All children will receive high quality and innovative teaching that supports and challenges them to achieve their best. They are taught the importance of perseverance to become lifelong learners.
- Provide a safe and welcoming environment which enables children, parents, staff, governors and visitors from all backgrounds, faiths, cultures and beliefs to feel like they belong, are valued and are accepted in the image of God. Develop children's responsibility to be good citizens and their confidence to speak up and be agents of change.
- Adults and children high expectations of themselves and ambition for their futures. They are equipped to be effective in which ever path they take in their education, work, and relationships.

Inclusion statement

At St. Aloysius, we will continuously strive to ensure that everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Each person will be given fair and equal opportunities to develop their full potential regardless of their gender, transgender, ethnicity, culture and religious background, sexuality, disability, or special educational needs and ability. The school will actively promote equality and foster positive attitudes and commitment to an education for equality.

What is homework?

Homework is anything children do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning, in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support the children's learning. For example, parents or carers who spend time reading stories to their children before bedtime are helping with homework or take children to visit museums/farms or cities to experience new things are helping with homework.

Rationale for homework

Homework is an important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development. We see homework as an important example of cooperation between teachers and parents/carers. We want our children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that doing homework is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment by providing additional regular reinforcement of learning outside of school. It is also a fabulous way for parents/carers to feel part of their child's school journey, supporting them with a range of activities which will highlight their development and progress over the year. Getting into regular homework habits is essential as it prepares children for increased homework moving through primary school and is good preparation for daily homework at secondary school.

Whilst regular planned homework time is essential, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Homework should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and other organisations that play an important part in their lives. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school, and we believe that they develop their interests and skills to the full only when parents/carers encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunities available outside school. Therefore, our homework is planned in advance and can be completed at a time in the week to suit different family's lifestyles.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, pupils and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT. St. Aloysius recognises that AI has many uses to help pupils learn, but may also lend itself to cheating and plagiarism.

- Pupils **may use** AI tools as a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas.
- Pupils **may not** use AI tools to write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text is presented as their own work

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework at St. Aloysius are:

- *to enable children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development*
- *to help children develop the skills of an independent learner working on tasks alone and supported by an adult*
- *to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning*
- *to enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently*
- *to provide educational experiences not possible in school*
- *to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons*
- *to help children develop good work habits for the future*
- *to ensure our children are prepared for the next phase in their education including transition to secondary school*

Types of homework

Homework is an integral part of the curriculum, it is planned each half term in line with the curriculum coverage. Children will be asked to complete no more than 4 homework tasks per week, the amount of homework may vary depending on particular year group expectations, e.g. SATs preparation in Y6. Children will receive regular weekly homework tasks in the following:

- *reading*
- *times-tables*
- *spelling*
- *handwriting*

Reading

Learning to read is **essential** for children to be able to access learning across all subject areas of the curriculum. Children need to practise their reading at home and in school to ensure they progress well and develop fluency. Parent/carer support is crucial for children learning to read. Please commit to listening to your child read at least **three times a week** and write a comment in their reading record. This will really ensure your child develops their reading skills at a good rate and keeps up with the National Curriculum expectations.

Don't stop reading to your child as they move through school. Children love to listen to stories no matter what their age and it is such a wonderful way to spend time with your child especially before they go to bed as it will calm them and help them to switch off from the day and take them to wonderful new places. You can choose books that they cannot yet read for themselves which will contain lots of new language to build their vocabulary, which they will then use when they are talking to others and in their writing too.

Children who are read to regularly display greater language comprehension, larger vocabularies and higher cognitive skills.



Reading at home is one of the most significant factors in influencing a child's educational success.

Times tables

Learning times tables makes it quicker and easier for children to work out maths problems in their heads. Moving beyond using their fingers to work out answers, they'll be able to use their knowledge to quickly solve any multiplication questions. As children move into KS2, by memorising their times tables, they become more accustomed to using their head to visualise answers for questions. This helps them to solve questions involving multiplication, addition, subtraction and division in their head, making maths easier and quicker.

Please ensure your child access the **TT Rock Star App** at least three times a week so they can practise their times tables at a quick pace which helps with rapid recall when solving problems and is essential for the Year 4 national multiplication test.

Spellings

Learning to spell certain words helps children to learn high frequency common exception words - words that can be tricky to sound out. By learning them off by heart, children can recognise the whole word when reading which helps them to read with fluency, understanding what they are reading. It also helps them with their writing, enabling them to think about what they want to write and not worry about the spelling. Please help your child to learn to say aloud the words as well as spell them by practising each week.

Handwriting

At St. Aloysius, we take particular pride and care in our handwriting style. Our intention is to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking. We use a scheme called Letter-join as the basis of our handwriting policy as it covers all requirements set out in the National Curriculum. At the beginning of each year, pupils will be given a letter join log which they will be able to access at home in iPads, tablets and computers. Teachers will send out information about the modules which are to be focused on at home. Please see our handwriting policy for more information.

How can you support your child with their homework?

Plan time each week for the following homework activities	
<i>Where/how?</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Find a quite comfy space to sit with your child as they read to you- this could be at home or in the car	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read their school reading book to an adult at least three times a week.• Read to your child each night before bed (this could be a book that they would not be able to read on their own that you can enjoy reading together)• Share your child's library book with them or take an interest in the book they have• chosen (this will help you to know what type of books they like to read)
<i>Where/how?</i>	<i>Times tables/Spellings</i>
Plan short pockets of time for your child to learn their timetable's/spelling this can be at home or whilst you are on the go.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practise on TT rock stars for 5- 10 minutes at least three times a week.• An adult to test children on their timetables- this is a great to do on a car journey or when out and about on walks.• These activities require practise over time and are essential for maths and English development.• One to one learning of timetables and spellings is most effective so your support at home with this is essential.
<i>Where/how?</i>	<i>Handwriting</i>
<i>Find a comfy place with a tablet /iPad/computer. Utilise different surfaces to make mark making fun</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practise on the Letter-join for 5- 10 minutes at least three times a week.• Use different types of writing materials (chalks, paints, crayons, pencils, felt tips) to support and encourage correct letter formation.• Encourage fine motor skills such as using tweezers to develop strength and stamina.

- It helps to get into a routine where you can, try to make sure you have set times each week to complete the homework tasks.
- Please guide your child with their homework- not leaving them to do it on their own.
- Talk them through it setting high expectations. Equally do not do it for them as it should represent their age and ability.

Inclusion and homework

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, and we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our children and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment that this brings.

Amount of homework set

We recognise that children have individual learning styles, which means that some tasks can be completed in a number of different ways, while others demand a particular approach.

As they move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give to the children. We expect children in Reception and Year 1 to spend approximately one hour a week on home activities, and this may well include reading with a parent. We encourage children in Years 2, 3 and 4 to spend approximately one and a half hours on homework type activities per week, and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately two hours a week.

Year 6 additional homework will be sent out prior to the National SAT tests including comprehension materials for you to discuss with your child and revisiting maths concepts etc. There will be a full explanation given to parents/carers to be able to help their child with this. If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Using technology to support with homework

A copy of the school's E-Safety policy can be viewed on the school website. The child's safety is paramount in all matters regarding use of the internet and we advise parents and carers to always supervise their child's access to the internet. The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their children to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

Monitoring and review

The staff review the policy with SLT using comments received from regular parental questionnaires to improve homework practices for our St. Aloysius children ensuring it contributes to the increase of attainment and progress of our children.

