



How to manage the timing of Home Learning

- Give your child ownership of the best time (but it's OK to insist they stick to it if they try avoidance tactics!)
- Get comfortable and give a chance to talk about the day
- Avoid working right up to bedtime
- Aim for time for home learning and free activity each evening
- Mental maths and spelling benefit from a little and often approach
- Stay calm however much your child might procrastinate!

Ideas for Positive Interaction and avoiding conflict

- Be interested and positive giving spontaneous encouragement
- Extend learning through questions rather than correcting mistakes
- Try 'Look again' instead of 'no' if referring to a mistake
- Praise of the effort and process (not just outcome) is a great confidence builder
- It's OK to ask for help when needed
- Stop the child when time is up so long as they have been working

Projects; homework for parents? Children in Key Stage 2 are sometimes given project type home learning. It can be tempting to do much of your child's project work for them. After all, you know they will be displayed and no one wants their child to feel their efforts aren't as good as their peers. The most important element is not the finished piece, instead the ability to research, resource and pick out the most relevant information. The most beneficial thing you can do for your child is help them learn the skills to pick out information from a text, use the index and glossary, try drawing a relevant picture or go out and about taking photos. Your child's project will be marked based on the understanding they show and the effort displayed rather than something elaborate or perfect

"I try to lead my children to have control of when they complete tasks. I tend to say, 'Has your teacher sent any tasks home today...would you like to show me...when do you think would be a good time to do this'...I try to avoid, 'DO your homework!'..."

Tips & Hints:

Helping Children to Positively Manage their Home Learning

This booklet has been written for parents by the St Faith's Parent Voice Group

Homework, what's it all about?

Homework is given to reinforce the areas of learning covered during the school day. It can be an opportunity for children to build on their skills to research information, take an interest in books they may not otherwise look at and record something in a completely different format e.g. chalking out spelling words on the pavement!

We hope this guide illustrates that any type of home learning can be achieved in a way that suits your child and indeed the whole family. Each child is unique and we hope that this booklet will provide you with some new ideas for to try!

Skills learnt:

- ❖ Prioritising & remembering
- ❖ Planning & meeting deadlines
- ❖ Asking for and accepting help
- ❖ Integrity and honesty
- ❖ Time management
- ❖ Perseverance

Let's be honest, homework can cause conflict!

We know that children don't always work as efficiently at home as for their teachers and we know that not all parents relish homework either. **Please don't hesitate to speak to your child's teacher if you have any difficulties, concerns or questions.**

"We struggle with maths homework most so this works best after school once my child has had a chance to rest and refuel. We keep it short and there is always a promise of something fun after the work is done."

Parents may be thinking:

- How does my child compare to other children?
- What will the school think of me?
- What if I don't understand the homework myself?
- It's not worth the hassle it causes or disruption to our evenings
- We are too busy to fit in home learning
- It's more important to do extra activities
- Why is there a fuss about every bit of homework?

Or they may be thinking:

- Homework gives me a chance to see what my child is doing
- Homework gives me a chance to really value my child's learning
- Doing a little bit of homework every night is the best way
- Best to get it done first and relax afterwards
- I will facilitate the home learning and let the teacher know if there is a problem

Children may be thinking:

- Home is for having fun and doing my clubs
- I am starving
- I will do my homework later
- I shouldn't have to do school work at home
- I can't see the point of this
- If I make a fuss I won't have to do it

Or they may be thinking:

- I can show that I can do this on my own
- I want to get this done so that I can play
- I like to show my teachers what I have done
- I know I will be pleased if I hand it in on time
- I like to find out more about things we have been doing

Psychology of Needs: Homework versus Emotions

Feeling positive to begin homework tasks can be helped by the following:

- A drink, snack or meal & toilet
- Active few minutes
- A special, suitable or interesting place to do the home learning
- Minimal distraction
- Some children feel energised after a bath and if not too close to bed time, can be a good time to study.
- Acknowledge emotions the child may be feeling. Certain feelings (e.g. disruption in their friendship group) impacts on their ability to start and complete homework. Be there to listen but not to deviate from the task in hand!

The Role of the Parent

- Encourage your child's enthusiasm for reading and share the joy of books
- Show interest and value what needs to be done.
- Know the homework routine of the school
- Check with the child which tasks must be done and when
- Ensure that accountability for homework is between your child and the school (do not do homework for them!)
- Provide scaffolding in terms of management, planning and content

"If there is resistance, rather than defaulting to 'you need to or you can't do xxx' or 'you will be in trouble if you don't etc' I use language such as, 'I understand that you don't feel like doing this...(acknowledge they have been working very hard all day / week)...are you happy to tell your teacher tomorrow that you haven't done it....' Then go back to, 'OK when would you like to do this task!'"

"We find that the best time for reading, and spellings is just after breakfast."