

GUARDIAN ANGELS' RCPS HOMEWORK POLICY

Policy approved by: Governors	Date: September 2025
Last reviewed: September 2025	
Next review: September 2026	

Mission Statement

At Guardian Angels' RC Primary School, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus to Love, Learn and Grow.

Introduction

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.

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. One of the aims of our teaching is for 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. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the activities of various out-of-school clubs and of other organisations that play an important part in the lives of our pupils. 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.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of homework are to:

- enable children to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- help children develop the skills of an independent learner;
- promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- enable some aspects of the curriculum to be further explored independently;
- provide educational experiences not possible in school;
- consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons;
- help children develop good work habits for the future;
- prepare children for high school.

Homework in each year group

Early Years

A crucial component of the Early Years Foundation Stage is fostering a strong partnership between the school and parents/carers. We greatly value contributions and records of achievements from home. Families share 'WOW' moments through 'Seesaw', our online learning journey platform, and these moments are celebrated daily in class.

Nursery children spend time in our school library each week selecting a book of their choice to take home and share with their family. We encourage families to read to their children to broaden their vocabulary and foster a love for books. Nursery staff set comprehension questions related to the chosen text, and we ask families to engage their children with these questions to develop their skills from an early age.

Reception children will also continue to choose a book from the library to share with their family. In addition, they will read decodable phonics books linked to their phonic ability to practice segmenting and blending skills at home as they learn to read words. 'Red words' are sent home in a flashcard pack for children to learn to read and write by sight. Read Write Inc. video links will also be sent via Seesaw to consolidate phonics learning. The Reception teacher may assign additional homework tasks as needed to support other classroom learning.

Year 1

Children are encouraged to read every night with an adult. Children will be given a RWI Book Bag Book that matches their phonic ability and will choose a library book to take home and share with their family. Every week, children will be set a list of spellings to be practised through games on the Spelling Shed website and Read Write Inc. video links will also be sent via Seesaw to consolidate phonics learning. Maths activities are set on Maths Shed to help children learn key facts. In the run up to the Y1 Phonics Screening Check in June, children will be sent home some revision homework. Each half term, children will be set an optional Home Learning grid with a range of activities to undertake throughout the term based on a topic from class.

Year 2

Children are encouraged to read every night with an adult. In Year 2, they will be given a RWI Book Bag Book that matches their phonic ability and will move onto books from our Oxford Reading Tree scheme. Each week, children will be set a list of spellings to be practised through games on the Spelling Shed website and Read Write Inc. video links will also be sent via Seesaw to consolidate phonics learning. Children are encouraged to practise their times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars and complete activities on Maths Shed to help them learn key facts for maths. Each half term, children will be set an optional Home Learning grid with a range of activities to undertake throughout the term based on a topic from class. In the run-up to the Year 2 SATs in May, children will be sent home some revision homework. The Class Page on the school website gives additional information about homework in Year 2.

Years 3 and 4

Children are encouraged to read at home every night. The children will take home a book from our Oxford Reading Tree scheme and a library book. We ask that adults at home ask

questions about their reading to check understanding. Children will be set weekly spellings on the Spelling Shed website and are expected to practise their times tables regularly using Times Tables Rock Stars. Maths activities will also be set on Maths Shed linked to learning in class. Each half term, children will be set an optional Home Learning grid with a range of activities to undertake throughout the term based on a topic from class.

Year 5 and 6

Children need to read at home every night and we ask that adults ask questions about their reading to check understanding. Their reading may be books (both fiction and non-fiction) and/or newspapers. Children will be set weekly spellings on the Spelling Shed website and are expected to practise their times tables regularly using Times Tables Rock Stars.

In addition to this, children will be set weekly work in their CGP books based on their learning in class. We ask that parents/carers encourage their children to work as independently as possible on the activities provided to prepare them for secondary education. In the lead up to the KS2 SATs, revision booklets and practice tests will also be sent home.

Homework Clubs

Maths Shed, Spelling Shed and Times Tables Rock Stars are all internet based and therefore children will need access to the internet to complete these tasks. In order not to discriminate anyone who doesn't have access to the internet, school will offer a time where children can use school facilities to complete their homework. Children can attend a lunchtime or after school club to complete their homework and iPads are available in our before and after school club.

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. When setting homework for children who are named on the register of special needs, we refer to those children's school support plan targets. Homework for these children may include an alternative method of recording, as deemed appropriate by the class teacher.

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete the homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents and carers can support their child by providing a good working space at home, by enabling their child to visit the library regularly, and by discussing the work that their child is doing.

Ideally, parents should read with their children every day to help them develop a love of books and stories and help them to grow in confidence. We ask parents and carers to sign their child's Reading Record to show that they have heard their child read and discussed their books with them on at least three occasions during each week.

If parents and carers have any questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. Finally, if they wish to make a complaint about the school homework policy, or the way in which it is implemented, parents or carers should contact

Mrs Sly in the first instance and, should concerns still remain, Mrs Davies and the governing board.

Homework is seen in part as a preparation for the more independent learning undertaken at secondary school. If homework is not completed, a text is sent out informing parents and asking for their support. If the situation is not resolved parents will be asked in to see Mrs Sly.

Use of ICT

A copy of the school's E-Safety policy is available from the school office and may also be found 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. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by copying, pasting and printing out something that has been written by somebody else. There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. We also make use of the Maths Shed, Spelling Shed and Times Tables Rock Stars computer programmes at school and at home.

We discourage children from bringing memory sticks into school, because of the risk of viruses. However, when appropriate, a teacher might suggest that a child's work is e-mailed to the teacher at school via the school office.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing board to agree and then monitor the school Homework Policy. Our homework policy is reviewed annually by the Head of School and the SLT and changes are made in relation to the content of the School Improvement Plan.