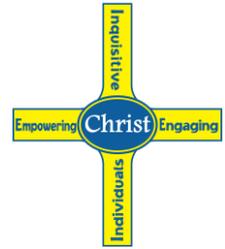




St Mary Magdalen's RC Primary Homework Survey



Thank you to everyone who has responded to our survey around our current homework provision, to which the data has been summarised below. The responses were very honest and for this, we thank you. Our aim in gaining your feedback was to ensure the homework we set is meaningful, manageable and targeted at the needs of our children. We hope the actions and next steps are warmly received.

Results showed that...

YES

69% - Homework reinforces work begun in school.

38% - It raises children's attainment.

51% - It keeps parents informed about school work.

59% - It helps develop independent working.

NO

15% - Children have long enough in school and do not need work at home.

20% - Homework cuts into family time at home.

23% - Homework can cause friction and anxiety at home.

17% - A lot of homework is done differently to how parents did it when they were at school.

84% believe homework is very important / has some importance.

79% believe the amount of homework given each week is about right.

87% find the level of homework about right.

The type of homework children engage with the most...

Reading	English/Maths	Grid	Online Platforms
75%	73%	13%	53%



Areas working well

My child loves doing the platform work and maths and English.

Just right amount of homework at the moment, in previous years have found it too much to fit in.

English & Math tasks in the homework book are our preferred option.

I do really encourage reading and this is engaged in well.

My child enjoys doing the homework online rather than sitting down and completing in his homework book.

Phonics, reading, numbers and practising sentence writing is what we concentrate on at home. We tend to pick tasks on the list relating to these subjects and leave the creative tasks.

Homework is imperative from a young age and not only prepares the children for what is to come in high school but valuable lessons are derived from homework, such as organisation, responsibility, ownership and work ethic. It is also a chance for parents to actively participate in their child's education.

Particularly like SPAG and TTRS. Prefer the English/Maths week than the grid week.

My child much prefers to read her books which she enjoys.

I find my child engages more with the English and maths work that is supplied as it is relevant to what she has done at school that week.

I really appreciate having homework which supports/reinforces learning in school, particularly in reading in maths. I think this is what homework should be. Reinforcing work, part of planned, sequential learning.

Now my child is in YR6 and the homework being SATs revision I feel it is helping her with the upcoming assessments.

I don't disagree with homework and I feel that homework is good for the children in the form of spellings, reading, maths and English.

The letters on a Monday we received in reception were brilliant. It let parents know what the children would be learning each week and we could help at home.

The options given for the reception homework are manageable and don't take too long to complete. It is always marked positively.

I like sitting down with my child and watching him do his homework. I encourage him to work independently, this helps me to see how he his developing with his learning too.



Areas to develop

Our children don't like the grid as much now although used to really engage with it when they were lower down the school.

Sometimes feel the depth of the Grid can cut into family time on a weekend and lead into week days when we don't want to be doing homework as tend to concentrate on reading, TTR on these days. Would prefer to do homework in relation to what has been learnt in class that week to reinforce learning and understanding .

I would much prefer to see homework related to the work they have been completing that week and reinforcing that learning. Also helps to keep parents in the loop on what is being done at school. I'm sure teachers can find some fun tasks to put in.

I would like to be able to have a platform where we can send photos and work he has done at home as he does a lot of extra work and most of the time forgets to hand it in and it too shy to show it

Grid homework can be demanding and compromise precious family time .

Rather than the grid how about an occasional 'wildcard' relating to their topic that term?

Could there be a section on the school website that could help parents assist with homework?

We'd appreciate support of instructions for the new methods in mathematics for the SATS.

Generally the grid adds anxiety and additional stress to family time.

The grid is too restrictive he gets more enjoyment from the worksheets.

My suggestion would be to also look at the marking of homework and the ratings applied. I don't think having a bronze, silver and gold rating is the best way to mark homework - this becomes quite competitive and doesn't provide any detail on ways to improve moving forward.

In my opinion our son needs to be given more maths and English tasks to catch up with missed work during covid.

Rather than the grid how about an occasional 'wildcard' relating to their topic that term?

I don't think that it's wrong to give homework, but we like to enjoy time as a family on a weekend going for walks and visiting new places and sometimes this does get in the way as we try to keep activities for a weekend.

I just don't like seeing the photos of homework, that may have been done by parents, on Twitter.

The Evidence Me app supported this parent / teacher collaboration effectively. If the school aim to strive for outstanding I think this collaborative approach is key and using homework to do this is an easy 'win'.



Our ideas and action points moving forward are as follows...

1. Homework to focus on English and Maths tasks that have been covered in school each week, for children to reinforce new concepts. Tasks are to be manageable and focused. Teachers to mark this and feedback to children.
2. Any support with methods used to be shared or examples given.
3. 'Wildcard' options to be used where needed, carefully planned by the teacher to match to work covered in class across the curriculum.
4. Homework to remain from Friday-Wednesday to ensure families have the flexibility to complete this at weekends or during the school week.
5. Reading books to be given throughout the week and changed regularly for younger children reading shorter books, to ensure children have a wider breadth and variety.
6. Please read regularly at home – 5 times weekly if possible, in addition to reading at school. Children are also encouraged to read their own books for pleasure at home – we would love to hear about this!
7. Online platforms, such as Times Tables Rockstars / phonics e-book library, to remain available on our website, for children to access when they can.
8. If you would like to share any extra projects / experiences children have at home, you are welcome to send in photos, etc. via Twitter or the school email account.

May we take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support and communication. It has really helped us to evaluate what is working well and why, but also identify areas to enhance and further refine.