

“Bee” long  
“Bee” lieve  
“Bee” have



**Each bee plays a part in the hive**

*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.*

*1 Corinthians 12: 12-31*



# Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy

# Homework Policy



Reviewed: Autumn 2021

Mr B Ford

## Introduction: Our Vision

*“Each bee plays a part in the hive.”*

At Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy, our Christian ethos is built upon the theme of the Body of Christ, which teaches us that we are all an important part of a team, have a unique role to play and must work together to help others. As a result, we encourage everyone in the school community to **belong** to a team, **believe** in themselves and **behave** in a compassionate way.

With regards to homework, it should be inclusive and take into account all pupils and the diversity of learning styles and interests. It should also reflect an understanding of family life and the impact that it has. Homework should help children to develop and apply their skills.

### What Do We Mean By Homework?

Homework can be any piece of work that is done outside of the school day. This can be formally set work from the class teacher as well as more informal child-led work. Homework may look different in each class but it is intended to be realistic, useful and a positive experience. Schools cannot make children do their homework, although it is up to school and home to work together to motivate pupils to complete set tasks and study.

#### ✳ “Bee”long: Who Is This For?

This homework policy is for all parents/carers and pupils. The link between home and school is hugely influential in the progress of a child. At Stretton Sugwas C of E Academy, we view homework as an important part of developing home-school links as well as helping a child to make progress. Put simply: homework can make a positive impact on a child’s progress in school. This document will provide information on homework expectations at Stretton Sugwas: what is expected of parents/carers and what parents/carers can expect from school.

#### 🏠 “Bee”lieve: What Do We Believe At Stretton Sugwas?

Homework at Stretton Sugwas is underpinned by three key beliefs.

- 1) The first key belief is that homework must be relevant and support the learning taking place in school. This means that any work set by teachers will link closely to what is done in class. It also means that children will not be given tasks that they do not possess the skills or knowledge to attempt and complete.
- 2) The second key belief is: the quality of child’s work is more important than the quantity. At Stretton Sugwas, we understand the necessary role that adults play in guiding children to make the right choices and work at a higher standard. We acknowledge that parents will have differing philosophies and demands on time, affecting their role in the homework process.

Parents have two options with regards to how they ensure the quality of their child's work: the "shadow" or the "checker". The shadow approach is where adults work alongside the children, guiding them to make the right choices for themselves. The checker approach is where more independent children use the adult to look over their work once it has been completed.

- 3) Finally, the third belief is that the children's best is always good enough. At Stretton Sugwas, we acknowledge that, although not all children will want to do homework, all adults play a role in helping children to see the purpose of it: to show off what they know and practise their skills.

The homework should, as much as possible, give children a choice how to show off their skills as well as allowing them to adapt tasks to their interests for increased enjoyment. We believe that this is important in helping children to develop into self-disciplined and self-motivated learners. In order to help achieve this, we encourage parents to model positive attitudes towards learning, challenge and study.

### **Structure: What Does Homework Look Like At Stretton Sugwas?**

Homework may be given to parents/carers in the form of a class *Homework Menu*. These are made available to parents at the start of each term/half-term, depending on individual class routines. The menu is so-called as it reflects the important motivational element of choice. The Homework Menu should give a variety of options for children/ parents/ carers to choose.

A class menu may outline essential daily activities, such as reading or spellings, which children should do in frequent short bursts. These are "the basics" and are the most important part of homework. This is the minimum expectation of homework at Stretton Sugwas. There may be more creative activities outline, such as making models or artwork.

The content of the Homework Menu will support a range of curriculum areas and interests. Additional homework options may be given by class teachers as appropriate. There may be updates of the school's Twitter feed with homework suggestions for children, parents and carers.

In EYFS (The Early Years), homework will appear to be less formal and may be in the form of reading books, which are changed regularly for parents to read with children. Homework might look like activity suggestions posted via Twitter or sent via email. Examples of these may be: looking for objects in the home beginning with a particular letter sound, counting toys, finding shapes around the environment.

In some classes, a VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) may be used, such as Microsoft Teams or Seesaw, in order to share videos and work with pupils and families.

### **Evidence: Handing In Homework**

Homework is an extremely useful form of evidence for teachers. Children may be required to hand in evidence of their homework on a day specified by their class teacher. Where there is no tangible work for children to bring in, parents may be asked to write a note in a homework book or reading record outlining briefly what the child has done as sufficient evidence.

All homework will be marked by teachers or verbal feedback given. In cases of late homework, the teacher reserves the right whether to mark it or not.

If a child repeatedly brings in homework late or not at all, teachers may call a meeting with parents/carers to discuss reasons for this. At Stretton Sugwas, we will always try and offer support. We want to help pupils engage with their work.

In some cases, children may not be required to hand in homework due to the need to respect severe personal circumstances or specific needs.

### **Support: What Help Do We Give At Stretton Sugwas?**

If a child cannot access the homework or has specific needs, teachers may discuss alternative homework options with parents/carers.

Parents/carers are always welcome to arrange a meeting with their child's class teacher if they require any support in the form of advice or resources.

Help will always be given to those who ask. Parents may request a copy of specific resources if they do not have the facilities at home to be able to print. Resources may be uploaded to the school website, VLE or sent out via Parentmail.

### **Extra work for Term-Time Absence**

Unfortunately, teachers should not be expected to give out extra work to children who are out of school during term-time. Teachers may give guidance or suggestions but it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to help their child to catch up on the work that is missed due to a term-time absence.

### **Revision**

For Year 6 pupils, revision for national tests counts as homework. It is important that pupils bring in such work for the class teacher to see as this will help inform where help or challenge can be given.

## ♥ “Bee”have: What Will The School Do?

Homework is to be seen as an extension of the learning going on in class. It is an opportunity for conscientious parents/carers to see the progress of their child and how they can help.

The staff and governors at the school will endeavour to try and cater for all interests and social lives. As a parent/carer, you can expect:

- Homework to be set that is within the child’s ability
- Homework to be a variety of formal and creative tasks
- Homework to be accessible
- Teachers to give written/oral feedback on homework tasks
- Teachers to listen to homework concerns
- Teachers to acknowledge that the child’s best is always good enough
- Teachers to try their best

## School Council and Pupil Voice: What Will The Pupils Do?

As a school working together with parents, we expect children to:

- Try their best
- Communicate what they enjoy/dislike
- Develop positive attitudes to study and challenge
- Respect their parents
- Do some form of homework that is relevant to them

## What Can Parents/Carers Do?

As a school, we expect:

- A positive attitude towards the importance of homework (modelled by parents/carers)
- Parents/ carers to be a “shadow” or “checker”
- Homework or evidence to be submitted on-time
- Children to try their best
- Parents/carers to try their best

## Complaints or Concerns

At Stretton Sugwas, we value all feedback on our practices. If parents/carers have any problems or queries regarding the homework, they can arrange to meet their child’s class teacher.

In some cases, problems may need to be shared with other teachers. Teaching staff regularly meet to discuss how to improve practice for the benefit of the children.

The views of parents/carers will be sensitively discussed at such meetings. Any complaints or concerns regarding the provision of homework at Stretton Sugwas Church of England Academy can be directed to the Head of School, Executive Headteacher, or in extreme cases, the Chair of Governors. Contact details can be found on the school website.

We are a listening school.