

## **St. John's Catholic School Homework Guidelines**

In March, teachers and parents were invited to contribute their views on homework which, in turn, have informed a review we have undertaken. The resulting guidelines are not intended to replace our policy on homework but to ensure greater consistency and develop best practice.

Although opinions about homework can be polarised, it is recognised that it serves important purposes:-

1. It strengthens the partnership between home and school and provides parents with an insight into what their children are learning
2. It encourages children to develop the skills and self discipline for independent learning
3. It consolidates and extends the skills and knowledge started in the classroom

It is important that homework is part of a learning programme and appropriate to each child's development. Homework will therefore be set with the following considerations:-

- Have a relevance to what is being learnt in the classroom
- Spelling homework should focus on high frequency words appropriate to each Key Stage and include rules for spelling.
- Learning times tables should be appropriate for the individual challenge of the child
- Where possible, Key Stage 1 homework will involve practical activities
- Opportunities will be provided for pupils to undertake personal research

Additionally, the following parental involvement is highly effective

- At Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, regular bedtime reading to children gives a good start in developing literacy skills
- Parents listening to their child read is an important foundation in learning to read confidently and independently

A review of these guidelines will be undertaken in November 2011