



St. Mary's Church of England VC Infant School

'Sharing, Caring, Learning and Loving with God'

St Mary's Way

Baldock

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Home Learning Policy

Policy Review:

This Policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Reviewed	September 2025
Next Review	September 2028

Our Vision

We aspire to be a community living life in all its fullness. We share, care, learn and love with God, valuing the dignity and respect of all humanity and creation. Through the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus' Kingdom comes and everyone can flourish together.

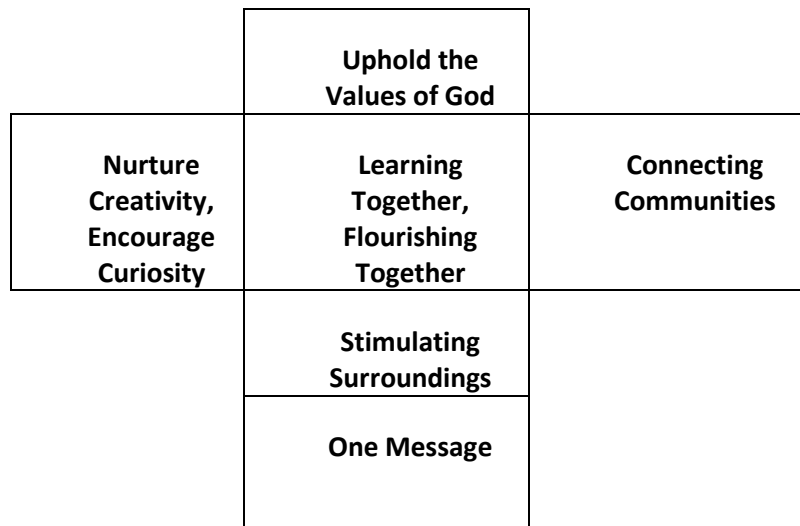
Our Mission

'Sharing, caring, learning and loving with God.'

Our Values

Friendship, Perseverance, Respect, Trust, Thankfulness, Humility, Generosity, Forgiveness, Courage, Peace, Compassion, Responsibility

Our 6 Key ideals that underpin our vision



Understanding our vision

Our 6 key ideals were created through the input of all stakeholders as being important factors in what we want from our school every day.

'We aspire to be a community living life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) Church of England vision for Education

'Sharing, Caring, Learning and Loving with God' (School's mission statement)

'Valuing the dignity and respect of all humanity and all creation' (Reference to Jonah and the Whale and the Church of England vision)

'Through the power of the Holy Spirit' (The importance of the Holy trinity and that we can't do it alone. We must work together.)

'Jesus' kingdom comes.' (Themed verse, Lord's Prayer and the goal of the school for us to create a peaceful and successful kingdom)

Flourish: Achievement

1.1 Aims and Objectives

Home learning 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. Home learning is a very important part of a child's education, and can add much to a child's development.

The government made clear its commitment to homework in the 1997 White Paper 'Excellence in Schools', in which homework was described as 'an essential part of good education'. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. Indeed, the school sees 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.

We acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While home learning 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.

The aims and objectives of homework are:

- to enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- to help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner
- to promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning
- to consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school, and to allow children to practice skills taught in lessons
- to help children develop good work habits for the future

2.1 Types of home learning

We regard homework as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning to reflect a variety of activities.

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books carefully matched to child’s current reading level [daily reading with an adult at home for around 5mins encouraged and logged in reading diary] These are changed by school weekly. • High Frequency words included as part of reading folder to practice. • Letter formation practice from around February half term. • Knowledge Organisers for topics are shared with parents if they would like to explore topics further. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books carefully matched to child’s current reading level [daily reading with an adult at home for around 5mins encouraged and logged in reading diary] These are changed by school weekly. • Common exception words included as part of reading folder. • 1x Maths activity linked to learning from the week. • Letter formation practice • Knowledge Organisers for topics are shared with parents if they would like to explore topics further. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books carefully matched to child’s current reading level [daily reading with an adult at home for around 5mins encouraged and logged in reading diary] These are changed by school weekly. • Common exception words included as part of reading folder. • 1x Maths activity linked to learning from the week. • Letter formation practice • Knowledge Organisers for topics are shared with parents if they would like to explore topics further. • Practice reading / Maths papers from Spring 2 for children to become familiar with SATs papers at their own pace.
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3.1 Inclusion

In setting homework for all children as part of normal school life, we aim to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child, so that all children can contribute in a positive way. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our pupils and their families, and we appreciate the enrichment this brings.

4.1 The Role of Parents & 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.

There are many websites containing highly educational material which can have a powerful effect on children's learning. Our school website provides links to the sites which will best support the children's learning. Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the internet.