

The Frassati Catholic Academy Trust
St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Learning and loving on our journey with Jesus.



To the greater glory of God

Parent Council Homework Survey Findings April 2017

The Parent Council are a parent group with a representative from each class. They devised and carried out the survey as part of the Being Outstanding Parent Action Plan 2016-2019. This was to help parents to share ideas and experiences on home learning. Homework enables a child to share their in-school learning, re-visit skills and extend their knowledge through private research. The support families give a child and the interest they show has positive effects right through a child's education and its value cannot be overestimated.

1. There were 90 responses to the survey.
2. 80% of children do homework every day or every other day with the average time being 30 minutes. Obviously the older children have more homework.
3. 77% of parents support reading every day, average time 15 minutes. The survey reported that many children read themselves before bed.
4. The vast majority of homework is done after school (90%) at a time when the child and parent are both at home. This is dependent on after school activities and parents work schedules. Other work is done at weekends, families find this convenient as they have more time and can be more flexible and children are less tired.
5. Most homework is done at the kitchen table (69%) or in a dedicated study area (29%). 21% work in their bedrooms and a very few in front of the television.
6. Parents use a range of support if they are unsure about homework or how to help. Most ask other parents within their circle (56%). 44% ask the teacher. The Facebook page and homework diary are also very useful. Families also use the internet.
7. Time is a real issue for everyone whether it is other activities, other children or work. 3 families felt language was a barrier.
8. It is good news that 73% of families feel the level of homework is about right. There are homework sessions at lunch in case of extreme need but children do need to socialise and relax at breaks and at the end of a long day. Computer and app based activities are popular.
9. Families do a wide range of other activities to support learning. Most after school clubs tend to be music or sport based.

Brilliant Suggestions from Other Parents

Always trying to answer questions and, where it is suitable for the child, doing homework in multiple, shorter sessions; prioritising, parents setting aside time and focussing on the work with them – having a set schedule so children know what is happening and when they can play. Planning homework into the weekday\weekend schedule as is best for the family. Having a small reward system – not necessarily material; 15 minutes extra play or tv, time with parent, a game etc.

Not allowing homework to build up or leaving it until it is due in but doing it gradually through the week so it is not out facing and subject to time pressures. This reduces the stress on everyone.

Letting children have a go and then everyone helping when they need. Being aware of what is needed, when for and doing it in good time. The importance of perspective – being relaxed, patient and trying to make it fun where possible means it doesn't end up as a battle.

Doing homework at a time when children are not too tired and adults have time to support. Encouraging children to do a little extra and supplementing it with home activities, especially supporting them with areas of interest; using other activities to practise maths or English.

Points to Consider

1. All children should read every day
2. The more time and flexibility families can be given for homework – say allowing time over a weekend – the less disruptive it is.
3. Obviously it is better to have children work in parents' sight and with their support available. Time is tight and homework is often completed whilst parents do other things in the kitchen or dining room. Checking it at the end before it is put into the school bag is a good idea.
4. Could more use be made of the website\IT? Workshops to include homework support ideas?
5. What can we do to support the small minority where language is an issue? Any ideas?
6. Use of the Y2 to Y3 information written by parents for transition.

If you have any queries or suggestions to help support home learning please do not hesitate to contact one of the Parent Council representatives via jubbs01@aol.com