

Supporting your child with homework:

1. Create routines and make space

- Look at SMHW & the JFS journal to see what homework has been set.
- Have an agreed time for completing the homework. E.g. straight after school, have a snack and then complete homework.
- Set up a space for your child to do their homework.
- While making this space in their bedroom is sometimes the easiest option, this automatically makes homework a solitary activity.
- If there is an option for a space in a communal area of the house this helps promote discussions and it is easier to get involved without it feeling like an intrusion.
- Wherever the space, give your child some ownership over it and make it an inviting space to spend time in. A comfortable chair and good lighting will also help.

2. Make it positive

- Make parental input a positive thing.
- If your child has a question about their work, help them, but try not to tell them the answer. Use questioning to help them get as close to the answer as they can. Starting these practices in younger years will mean that when homework becomes a bigger part of their learning outside of school, your child is comfortable discussing it with you and values your input.

3. Let them make mistakes

- It's OK for answers to be wrong.
- Telling your child the right answer and getting them to just write it down means that the teacher is none the wiser about which bits they are struggling with and which they excel at.
- Help but not too much and leave the mistakes as they are for a teacher to see. Any errors are very revealing and this helps teachers adjust their teaching to address these issues.
- The chances are, if your child doesn't understand it, others in the class probably don't either, and homework is a great way of highlighting this to the teacher.

4. Be realistic

- Give them time to complete work set.
- Allowing them some space in the family schedule means they will be able to start allocating their own time and gives them plenty of time to complete the work set.
- Ensure students spend the allocated time on the homework, they should not be spending 3 hours completing a 1 hour piece of work. If they are struggling to complete the homework in the allocated slot, please write a note in your child's journal stating that they had spent X amount of time on it and were unable to complete their homework. This should not be happening often.
- Sometimes, there are genuine reasons why homework isn't completed. However, for a teacher it can be unhelpful when pupils come in with a note from a parents that simply says, "My son/daughter has not done their homework. Signed...".
- Please trust the teacher's professionalism.