

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through reference to diaries and liaison with teachers.

Aims and Objectives of homework:

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To foster self-discipline and study skills.
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes.

Guidelines and Content:

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.
- Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given a homework pass as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion. A homework pass is for written homework ONLY.
- Please note extra homework may be given some time during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort, presented untidy work or has to catch up in a particular area.
- Children in middle or senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.
- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain a mixture (depending on class) of reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be 'learned by heart', drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Children often feel that reading and 'learning by heart' is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

- The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. **The following are *average* guidelines only:**

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|----------------|------------------|
| Junior Infants | 0 - 10 minutes |
| Senior Infants | Up to 20 minutes |
| Rang 1 | Up to 25 minutes |
| Rang 2 | Up to 35 minutes |
| Rang 3 | Up to 45 minutes |
| Rang 4 | Up to 50 minutes |
| Rang 5 | Up to 1 hour |
| Rang 6 | Up to 1 hour |

NB: If pupils are working diligently and without interruption but homework is *regularly* taking longer than the average times above parents should contact the class teacher.

Irish homework:

1. Written homework in Irish will be given x 1 night per week (minimum) for 3rd-6th classes.
2. Reading homework in Irish will be given x 1 night per week (minimum) for 3rd-6th classes.
3. Irish spellings and meanings will be given every night for 3rd-6th classes. They will be tested/checked in the same way as English spellings.
4. Irish Grammar (ie verbs, vocabulary, prepositions etc) will be given to learn for homework **every night** in 3rd-6th. They will be tested/checked weekly.
5. 2nd class will be given 3 simple irish spellings every night in term 3. They will be tested/checked in the same way as English spellings.
6. In order to prepare for the transition to third class, 2nd class will be given a short section of irish writing homework x 1 night per week from May onwards in Term 3. This is in addition to regular homework.

Parental Input:

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - ◆ Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework.

- ◆ Preventing interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child.
- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening. **NB: *By signing the homework journal you are agreeing that you have seen the work, you are happy with the content and presentation, you have listened to reading and that you have tested your child's spellings and tables or other learning homework if they have any.***
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Ideally, all written messages to the child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (there are additional pages at the end of the journal).
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page.
- Letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal. Please check your child's journal for such notes on a regular basis.
- Ideally homework should be done before any television is watched, soon after school, while your child is still fresh. However some children need a break before starting homework.
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Ideally teachers like to check and correct homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers, it is not always possible to check each child's homework every day. In such instances it will be corrected and returned within one week.
- Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. The class teacher will also check this work for accuracy and to inform teaching.
- Children who do not complete homework satisfactorily may be required to re-do this work during lunch break.
- Where appropriate homework may be differentiated for pupils with SEN. This is decided by the class teacher and, if necessary, in consultation with the LSR team. It is monitored by the class teacher and, if necessary, by the LSR team. Parents are advised where appropriate.

- Parents, who request additional homework for their child, will be advised, by the class teacher, of suitable additional textbooks. However it is the *parent's* responsibility to oversee and correct any work completed using such texts. Additional homework, to that which is required in Appendix 1, will NOT be given as it is felt that the content listed is adequate following a full school working day.

Communication:

Parents should communicate with the teacher about homework in the following circumstances:

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspect of it.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

A letter is sent out to all parents at the beginning of each school year outlining homework guidelines and expectations for their children.

Ratification:

This policy was reviewed and updated by the staff and Board of Management in June 2016.