



## Homework Policy

### Why give homework?

- To re-inforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

### How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. Homework may be given on Friday if it has been neglected during the week
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are

given homework off. Children in certain classes can also work towards a *homework off* voucher.

- Please note, extra homework may be sometime be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

### What is the content of homework?

- 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 reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be learned by heart, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class

### How much time for homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. 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 general guidelines only:

Junior Infants 0 - 10 minutes

Senior Infants 15/20 minutes

1<sup>st</sup> Class 20/25 minutes

2<sup>nd</sup> Class 25/30 minutes

3<sup>rd</sup> Class 30/35 minutes

4<sup>th</sup> Class 35/40 minutes

5<sup>th</sup> Class 40/50 minutes

6<sup>th</sup> Class 40/50 minutes

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday.

Every effort will be made to keep the homework in a consistent format so that the children can establish a homework routine.

### **How much help should parents give?**

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
  - Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework – children should sit at a table to do written work
  - Turning off the TV and other technology.
- 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. In this case the parent should write a note or call to see the teacher explaining the problem.
- Ideally, parents and not childminders/grandparents, are expected to do Stay Safe and RSE homework with their children. This homework is usually set on a weekly basis and does not have to be done on the day it is set.

### **How often should parents monitor homework?**

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening
- 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. Infant classes do not have a journal so notes can be written to the teacher in another copy or on a separate piece of paper.

### **How often do teachers monitor homework?**

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week.
- Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

### **When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?**

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

### **When should homework be done?**

- 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 not be left until morning time before school.

Ratified by BoM, January 2013

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