

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and life long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it reinforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice 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.

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays but not on Fridays. The two exceptions being if homework has been neglected during the week or the child has not made a fair effort or has presented untidy work. In senior classes some project work may be given at weekends.

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat or as a acknowledgement of some special occasion.

### **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.

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 completed thoroughly.

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', collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.

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 of homework** that matters.

*The following are general guidelines only:*

- *Junior Infants: up to 10/20 mins.*
- *Senior Infants: up to 20/30 mins.*
- *Rang 1 & 2 30/40 mins*
- *Rang 3 & 4: 40/50 mins.*
- *Rang 5 & 6 : 60 mins+*

**Pupils should:**

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary and ensure they take home relevant books and copies  
Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Please read information about completing homework that is in your diary.

**Parents should:**

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
- Encourage children in the Senior Room to work independently as far as possible but they still need support and your help.
- Encourage children to organize themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupil should have the Homework Journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- **Check that all oral and written homework is complete and then sign the journal.** By signing the journal you are saying that your child has

completed all their work to the best of their ability unless otherwise communicated in the journal.

- Check that the child has all necessary books, including journal, copies, pencils, colouring pencils, (sharpened and ready to use) rulers, calculator in Senior room, dictionary, as needed for the next day.

### How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis.. 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 class work) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

### What happens when Homework is not done?

When homework is not done regularly the teacher contacts parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parents and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

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

### **Remember:**

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong. This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Staff facilitate homework club on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2.45pm - 3.40pm Please speak to your child's teacher if you require further information.

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