

HOMEWORK POLICY

Aims and Objectives

In formulating this policy, the authors were mindful of the ethos of the school as outlined in the school's mission statement. In particular, the homework policy aims to enable 'each child to realise his or her potential as a unique individual' and 'to prepare them for further education and lifelong learning'. Furthermore, the policy promotes partnership with parents/guardians as one of its main aims.

The specific aims and objectives of the policy are:

- to maximise the learning of all children.
- to reinforce work done in the classroom.
- to develop study skills and self discipline to enhance learning.
- to strengthen links between home and school.
- to promote a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.

Assignment of Homework

Homework will be assigned by the class teacher Monday to Thursday (inclusive). Homework will not generally be given on Fridays. Weekend homework may be set in exceptional circumstances when homework has not been completed or as a sanction for breach of school rules. To mark a special occasion, as a treat or as a reward, the class teacher or principal may occasionally decide not to set any homework.

Homework will normally be prepared by the class teacher to reinforce what has been learned at school. However, there will be occasions, especially in middle and senior classes, where homework will provide opportunities for the child to be creative, to research a topic or work on a project.

It is expected that homework will be completed by each child to the best of their ability. Teachers undertake to correct homework consistently. For children in middle and senior classes, in the interest of fairness and equity to all, particularly the vast majority of children in the school who do their homework to the best of their ability, children who choose not to do their homework or who do not endeavour to do their homework to the best of their ability on a regular basis may be required to attend to this work at school during their recreational time under the supervision of their class teacher or another member of staff.

Homework Guidelines

Individual teachers will decide on the homework they consider appropriate to their class, mindful of the following guidelines:

- Homework will consist of a balance between reading, writing and learning tasks.
- Pupils will be encouraged to see the intrinsic value of reading and learning tasks.
- The homework set will be achievable.
- The individual needs of children, especially those with learning or language difficulties, will be taken into account.
- There will be consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Homework for senior classes will occasionally provide an opportunity for research and creativity.

- The difficulties faced by parents/guardians for whom English is not a first language will be taken into account and addressed by the class teacher.
- Recommendations outlined below are general guidelines. Teachers will use their own discretion regarding the time and content for individual children and classes.

Junior Infants

- talking about pictures, rhymes, stories
- listening to stories
- revising words on worksheets and in wordboxes
- reading with parent/guardian
- some colouring

Time: 10 minutes approx.

Senior Infants

- talking about pictures, rhymes and stories
- using full sentences in response to questions
- revising words on worksheets and in wordboxes
- reading books with parent/guardian/older sibling
- reading pages from class text book
- occasional worksheet

Time: 10-15 minutes approx.

First Class

- Maths or English written work
- English reading
- English spellings
- Tables

Time: 15-20 minutes approx.

Second Class

- Maths
- English written work
- English spellings
- English reading
- Tables
- Activities in relation to preparation for First Eucharist

Time: 20-30 minutes approx.

Third Class

- Maths
- English reading
- English written work (may include History, Geography or other subject areas)
- English spellings
- Tables
- Occasional Irish sentences for reading

Time: 30-40 minutes approx.

Fourth Class

- Maths
- Tables

- Written work, e.g. English, Irish, other subjects, project work etc.
- English reading
- English spellings
- Irish reading
- Irish spellings

Time: 40-45 minutes approx.

Fifth Class

- Maths
- Tables
- Written work, e.g. English, Irish, other subjects, project work etc.
- English reading
- English spellings
- Irish reading
- Irish spellings

Time: 50-60 minutes approx.

Sixth Class

- Maths
- Tables
- Written work, e.g. English, Irish, other subjects, project work etc.
- English reading
- English spellings
- Irish reading
- Irish spellings

Time: 50-60 minutes approx.

Homework in Senior classes will occasionally include learning of poetry, songs etc.

Roles and Responsibilities

Child

The role of the child is to complete homework assignments to the best of his/her ability.

Parents/Guardians

The role of the parent/guardian should reflect the stated aims of providing a link between the parent/guardian and teacher, and an opportunity for the parent/guardian to become more involved in the child's learning. Parents/guardians can help the child by:

- providing a suitable place and a regular time for homework as suits the demands of the household.
- checking the Homework Journal (First to Sixth class) every day for set homework and other notes.
- listening to reading and spellings.
- becoming involved in project work.
- providing some help, if needed, but without doing the work for the child.
- ensuring the homework is completed to the best of the child's ability.
- signing the Homework Journal when the work is completed.
- communicating with the class teacher if homework is not done.
- communicating with the class teacher if the child is unable to complete the homework or is taking much longer than the recommended time. The recommended content and

times outlined above are mere guidelines. Different children will complete the same homework in different times and times will vary from day to day. However, homework should not be a cause of continued stress.

Teacher

The role of the teacher in assigning homework should reflect the stated aims of the homework policy in reinforcing what has been learned during the day, developing study skills and providing a link between parent/guardian and teacher. The teacher will:

- set homework in accordance with guidelines.
- ensure homework is written down.
- take time in First class to establish the routine of using a Homework Journal.
- check and correct homework regularly.
- check journals regularly and note correspondence from parents/guardians, especially if the child is having difficulties.
- inform parents/guardians if homework is unsatisfactory.
- provide examples of how homework should be completed where necessary, e.g. new topic in Maths.
- inform parents/guardians of children in Infant classes of topics being covered in class to allow them an opportunity to reinforce topics at home. This can be done by posting notes in the classroom window or sending notes home.