

Homework Policy

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**Introduction**

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

In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children’s ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

In 2019 our school introduced the online platform See Saw. Teachers now upload some homework on See Saw. It is very important that all parents/guardians download the Family App allowing their child to access material posted on See Saw by teachers.

##### Aims

* To reinforce what the child has learned during the school day.
* To provide a link between teacher and parents.
* To develop child concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
* To provide an opportunity to practice work already done. The class teacher normally prepares it.
* 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 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday but not on Friday. There are two exceptions:
1. If the homework has been neglected during the week.
2. In senior classes some project work is undertaken at the weekends.
	* Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or principal, the children are given “No Homework” as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.
	* Extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if the child has not done homework, made suitable effort or presented untidy work.

### Content of homework

* Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks and written tasks.
* The 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.
* 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 that work is done well.

### Suggested time for homework

The following are the 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 that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters.

The following are general guidelines only:

Junior/Senior Infants Up to 20 minutes

Rang 1 Up to 30 minutes

Rang 2 Up to 40 minutes

Rang 3 Up to 50 minutes

Rang 4 Up to 1 hour

Rang 5 Up to 1 hour 15 minutes

Rang 6 Up to 1 hour 30 minutes

# Role of Pupils

* enter homework accurately in a homework diary.
* ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
* complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
* present written work neatly.

# Role Of Parents

* Download See Saw Family App
* Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
* Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
* Encourage children to organise 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 of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
* Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
* Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
* Sign the homework diary/Initial the Homework Sheet checking that all homework is complete. Check emails and See Saw notifications regularly for updates.
* Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day.
* If a child has difficulty with homework, parents should help the child overcome the difficulty with further explanation and examples but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parents should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem. Such problems may include:
1. The child spending more than the recommended time or
2. A lack of understanding of the task.

# How often should parents monitor homework?

* Parents should check and sign a child’s homework.
* It is a valuable means of communication between parents and teacher.
* A pupil’s journal is an important record of the child’s homework.
* Ideally all correspondence with your child’s teacher should be written in the child’s journal
* Please check that your child records homework neatly on the correct page and tick each item when completed.

# Role of Teacher

* Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
* Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties

# How often should 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 everyday.
* As children get older and learn to work independently some items of homework are checked less often (e.g.) every 2nd day or once a week.
* Children themselves under the direction of the teacher may check some items of homework. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

# When homework is not done

Parents should communicate with the class teacher explaining why homework has not been done (e.g.)

* Family circumstances
* Illness
* Lack of understanding of the task assigned.

# When should homework be done?

Ideally homework should be done soon after school while your child is still fresh and never in the morning before school.

**Ratification and Review:**

This policy was ratified by the BoM on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson, BOM

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