

Homework Policy

Why homework is given

- Homework is to re-inforce what the child learns and what the teacher taught during the day.
- It provides a link between teacher and parent.
- It develops the child's concentration skills and work ethic.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by the child. Therefore it **may not** be uniform for the entire class. Homework for each child is set by the teacher based on their informed and professional knowledge of the child and their capabilities. It will generally be work prepared by the teacher in class but for older classes may involve some more challenging work and opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of **their** ability.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is generally given on Monday-Thursday inclusively.
- On occasion, at the discretion of the teacher/Principal children may be given 'homework off' as a treat or acknowledgement of a special occasion.
- Homework passes may be received as a reward.
- Homework is not given on birthdays.
- If your child is following a Learning Support/Reading Recovery Programme there will be liaison between the class teacher and support teacher to ensure that your child is getting homework appropriate to their needs.
- Extra homework may be given during the week or during the weekend if work has not been completed ,if the child has not made suitable effort or has presented untidy work.

What is the content of homework?

- Homework will be ***differentiated*** according to the needs of the child.
- In Junior and Senior Infants pupils will generally receive mostly reading and oral tasks for homework.
- Ideally, homework from 1st class upwards will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. However, this balance may not always be possible and may vary from day to day.
- Time devoted to reading and learning is as important and often more important than written tasks. Children often feel the learning by heart homework is not real homework but it is often vital to your child's progress e.g. tables. **Parents can play an**

Homework Policy

important role in this learning by taking time to listen to reading and work to be learned off and ensuring that it is well done.

- **Homework does not replace teaching**, it reinforces what has been taught so **is only given to pupils that have been present for the teaching on that day.**

How much time should be spent on homework?

The following are guidelines only for time spent at homework. It is worth remembering that different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and from term to term. Homework does not replace teaching done during the day but is simply a reinforcement of work covered. Quality of work done is much more important than quantity and again it is important to stress the **importance of 'learning off' and reading homework.**

Junior and Senior Infants	10-15 mins (words/reading)
First and Second Class	20-30 mins
Third and Fourth Class	30 mins
Fifth and Sixth Class	45 mins (max)

Pupils should:

- Enter homework accurately into Homework Journal.
- Ensure they take home the relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework to the best of **their** ability.
- Present work neatly, including margins, date, titles and answers clearly labelled where appropriate.

Parents/ Guardians should:

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subject areas from an early age. Attitude from home impacts greatly on the child's perception of what is important.
- Encourage children to work as independently as possible. Resist over – helping but be available for guidance.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books to hand and homework journal out to tick off as work is completed.
- Provide a suitable surface and a distraction-free environment for the child to work in, TV free. Less distraction means quicker and more accurate completion!
- Agree on a suitable time to complete work, taking into account the need for playtime, family time and relaxation.

Homework Policy

- Encourage good presentation and neatness.
- Take time to help your child with their learning and reading homework as these are essential elements of homework. Reading with and to children in the Junior Classes is essential and extremely beneficial to oral language development and future independent reading.
- Sign the homework journal (2nd-6th) each evening ensuring homework is properly completed.
- Communicate any difficulties the child has with the homework through the journal. Similarly the teacher will communicate through the journal.

Teachers should:

- Set homework, review homework and provide student feedback.
- Monitor homework to help identify specific difficulties a pupil might be experiencing.
- Differentiate for children of different abilities and for children with special needs.
- Communicate difficulties to parents.
- Correct homework regularly. Ideally this would be on a daily basis but this may not always be practical in bigger classes. In more senior classes, where children are older and more able to work independently, some elements may be checked less frequently. Some homework may also be checked by the children themselves, under direction of the teacher. This can be a useful exercise in self- assessment and promotes responsibility and independence.

What happens when homework is not completed?

- When homework is not completed satisfactorily/regularly the teacher will speak to the pupil to determine if there is a valid reason for it not to be completed.
- Communication will be made through the journal to inform parents of the issue and this communication will require signing by the parent.
- If the situation continues, the Principal will be informed and may make contact with parents to discuss the issue.
- Consistent non completion may result in the pupil having to complete work during school hours.

Homework Policy
