



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.

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 practise what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's abilities and provide opportunities for creativity.

HOW OFTEN IS HOMEWORK GIVEN?

Homework is given on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** but not on Fridays except in certain circumstances:

- If homework has been neglected during the week
- In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.

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

HOMEWORK CONTENT

Usually, homework contains 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. 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 done well.

DURATION OF 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:

Infants: 0-20 minutes

First and Second Classes: 20 to 30 minutes

Third and Fourth: 30 to 40 minutes

Fifth and Sixth: 40 to 50 minutes

PUPILS SHOULD:

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary for first to sixth classes.
- For Infants classes homework sheets are prepared on a weekly basis.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD:

- 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. Pupil should have their homework journal or homework sheets 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.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Sign their child's homework diary/reading record checking that all homework is complete.
- 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.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework journal and ensure pupils do not spend too long on assignments etc. Guidelines above.

TEACHERS WILL:

- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties
- Differentiate homework as required for individual needs.

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 parent(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

RATIFICATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed as and when is required. This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on the date below.

Ratified by Board of Management on:

23-1-23

Signed:

Rev. Ruth O'Kelly,

Chairperson

V. Rand

Principal