



## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **Introductory Statement:**

This policy was drafted by the school staff after consultation with parents on a school development planning day on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2002. Further consultation was held with parents on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2003. The policy was passed by the Board of Management on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2003 and will be reviewed bi-annually. The last review took place in 2018/19

### **Rationale:**

This policy is to document current good practice in the school and to form a basis for review in the future.

### **Aims of Policy:**

- To provide guidelines for parents.
- To provide advice and focus for teachers and pupils.
- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.

### **Guidelines:**

#### **1) How often is homework given?**

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.
- 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.

#### **2) What is the content of the work?**

- 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. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spelling, tables, written work, pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items (on-line and manually), project work 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.

#### **3) How much (time) 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 only:(following consultation with parents and staff in 2018)

<i>Junior Infants</i>	<i>10 – 15 minutes</i>	<i>Senior Infants</i>	<i>Up to 15 minutes</i>
<i>Rang 1</i>	<i>Up to 20 minutes</i>	<i>Rang 2</i>	<i>Up to 25 minutes</i>
<i>Rang 3</i>	<i>Up to 35 minutes</i>	<i>Rang 4</i>	<i>Up to 40 minutes</i>
<i>Rang 5</i>	<i>Up to 45 minutes</i>	<i>Rang 6</i>	<i>Up to 50 minutes</i>

**4) How much help should parents give?**

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
  - ◆ Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
  - ◆ Preventing interruptions or distractions, like T.V. playstations, tablets, on-line activities or other children.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty. It would be preferable were children to do their reading and oral work first.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

**5) How often should parents monitor homework?**

- Parents should check and sign a child’s homework journal every evening (not relevant for infants).
- The pupil’s journal is an important record of the child’s homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child’s teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal).

**6) How often do teachers monitor homework?**

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child’s homework every day.
- 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 part of the learning process for children.

**7) 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 she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

**8) When should homework be done?**

- Each family situation is different – both parents working, child minders etc. Ideally, homework should be done before other activities, soon after school, while your child is still fresh. However, some children need a break before starting homework. Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

**9) What happens if homework is not done?**

- Parents should communicate a reason to the teacher
- Where a child has not done part/all of their homework the teacher may decide that it is appropriate that it is completed on another night or at break times.
- If this is a regular occurrence then the parents may be called in.

**10) Absences:**

- Where practical, teachers may provide homework to cover brief absences, when requested. In the event of longer absences due to illness the situation may be discussed between parent and teacher. Homework will never be given to pupils who are taken out of school during the

year to go on holiday.

**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.**

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Chairperson Board of Management

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Secretary Board of Management

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Date