



Homework Policy

Introduction

This policy, previously formulated by staff, was reviewed and amended in consultation with the Parents Association, and ratified by the Board of Management in January 2020.

Rationale

- The policy was drawn up in order to give some guidelines re: the forms of homework assigned and the length of time spent on homework for children at different levels.

Aims

- To reinforce what has been taught in class.
- To develop study skills.
- To benefit pupil learning.
- To strengthen links between home and school.

Relationship to the Character and Spirit of the School

As a school, we strive to develop each child's potential. Homework helps the child to take responsibility for his/her own work and to grow in independence. The Homework Policy assists with forwarding this aim.

Content

Time Spent on Homework

It is difficult to specify how long children at various levels should spend on homework, as the time depends on:

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- the age of the child

- the child's ability to listen in class and learn

- the child's level of concentration

- the suitability or otherwise of the learning environment – distractions, interruptions etc.

- the time of evening when homework is undertaken

However the following times may be used as a guide by parents –

Infants: 5 – 15 mins

I & II: 20 – 30 mins.

III & IV: 30 – 45 mins.

V & VI: 45 – 75 mins.

Shared/Paired Reading is recommended as an encouragement to children and the reading of library books is encouraged at all times.

Teachers will ensure that there is a balance in homework assignments between oral, reading and writing activities. The class teacher will liaise with the Learning Support teacher to ensure that pupils will not be given two sets of homework.

Homework may be differentiated by the class teacher according to the ability of the child.

No homework will be given at the weekends unless given as a sanction to certain pupils for instances of misbehaviour.

No homework will be given for the first two weeks on returning to school after the summer holidays or for the last month before the summer holidays.

Parental \ Guardian Involvement

Parents\Guardians can help their children with homework by providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework and by trying to prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children. Children should do written homework themselves and Parents\Guardians should only help when the child has difficulty. If a child has difficulty

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with homework, the Parents\Guardians 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, using the pupil's journal, explaining the problem.

Monitoring Homework at Home

Parents\Guardians should check and sign a child's Homework Journal (First – Sixth Class) every evening as the pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between Parents\Guardians and teachers. Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the Homework Journal. Please check that your child records homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.

Monitoring Homework at School

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 Journal 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. Sometimes, under the direction of the teacher, children themselves may check some items of homework or class work. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

Sanctions for Homework Incomplete on a Regular Basis:

- The teacher will speak to the child and parent to understand "Why" the problem is persisting with homework.
- Possibly complete the homework or part of it the following evening or at the weekend.
- The principal may speak with the child and/or parent if it persists and is warranted.
- Communication will be maintained with the parents/guardians at all times when any of the steps above are being taken.
- Also, see the school's Code of Good Behaviour.

Success Criteria

- Feedback from teachers, pupils, parents.
- Satisfactory homework submitted by pupils.

Implementation

This policy will take immediate effect and will be reviewed every three years.

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Ratification and Communication

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management, at a meeting held on February 19, 2010 and last reviewed at a board meeting in November 2023 in consultation with staff and parent representatives.

The policy will be made available to parents on the school website.

Guidelines for Parents

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework from an early age.

- Praise rather than criticise.

- Encourage the child to undertake his/her homework independently. This will help to build confidence and self-discipline.

- Some pupils seem to develop a negative attitude towards Irish, from 2nd Class onwards. A negative attitude makes it more difficult for the child to learn. Parents/guardians are asked to foster a positive attitude to Irish, as it is a required subject through first and second level education.

- If a child has difficulty with Maths, help him/her using the method outlined in the Maths book or in school.

- Encourage the child to organise himself/herself for homework e.g. to have all the required materials to hand (books, pens etc.)

- Agree with your child a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account his/her age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.

- Help the child to do his/her homework by providing a quiet place and suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions, T.V. and other children.

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- Parents/guardians are advised not to over-help by doing the work for the child, i.e. giving him/her the sentence, answer etc. However, some children will require assistance, and a one-to-one situation with the parent/guardian can be beneficial.

- Presentation: where neatness and presentation are concerned, encourage the child to do his/her best writing etc. (within a reasonable time limit).

- Please check that the pupil has prepared for the next school day and has all the school requisites that he/she will require – P.E. gear etc.