

Homework Policy

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Introduction

This policy was drawn up as a result of whole staff collaboration, with the Board of Management, to ensure that homework is a positive and productive experience, which enhances the child's learning.

Rationale: Why give homework?

- a) To consolidate and re-enforce what the child learns in school.
- b) To provide a link between teacher and parent, and promote partnership between home and school in supporting a child's learning.
- c) To develop concentration, good study habits / skills and independent learning.
- d) To help develop a work ethic for the future.

When is homework given?

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday, and normally not at weekends.

- Sometimes children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Children may also earn a homework voucher at times which they may be allowed to use occasionally to have less homework on a particular night.

Time spent on Homework

Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time, depending on the child's abilities, levels of focus and concentration, distractions, conditions in which homework is completed, time of the year etc. It is the quality and not the quantity of the homework that matters. Teachers will assign appropriate amounts of homework for each class level. Even for the older classes this homework should never take longer than one hour to complete.

Types of homework usually given:

The following are just some of the types of homework that may be given across the class levels:

- Shared Reading / Library Reading
- Spellings – Learning and written work
- Learning of tables
- Learning of songs / poems / prayers
- Written assignments
- Mathematics questions
- Project Work
- Bringing in items connected with particular subjects / topics – e.g. historical artefacts
- Interviewing parents / grandparents / family on particular topics
- 'Active' homework including sports drills or exercises.

Children with Special Education Needs

Homework is differentiated, when necessary, to ensure that children with special educational needs are accommodated. Children who attend Special Education Teacher (SET) may get additional or alternative homework, after consultation with parents and Class teacher. (Eg. alternative spellings etc.)

Special consideration is made to ensure that any such child would not be over-burdened with an extra work load. In some cases, homework given by the class teacher may be reduced for an individual child to compensate homework given by a SET.

How much help should parents give?

Parents should help by:

- Providing a suitable place and time to do homework.
- Encourage their child to do their best and try each item of homework.
- By giving a simple explanation only when a child is having difficulty.
- Parents should not do the homework.
- Writing a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Enjoying shared reading with their child.
- Helping with Spellings, Tables etc.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening. Parents may be also asked to sign tests, to ensure they are informed of their child's progress.
- The school Homework Journal (1st. – 6th. Classes) is an important record of homework and a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Please ensure that your child uses his/her homework journal every night and ticks each item when completed.
- Please check your child's journal for notes on a regular basis.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

Teachers should ensure that all homework set is prepared and explained well, and is at the right level for the class. If homework is not completed, and no written explanation is provided, or if homework is not completed to the best of the child's ability, the teacher may decide to re-assign this homework for completion at another time. (i.e. lunchtime / another night / weekend).

Teachers will bring any issues around homework to the attention of the parent where necessary.

When should parents communicate with teachers about homework?

- a) When a child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- b) When a child cannot understand some aspect of their homework.
- c) If the time spent at homework is often longer than the recommended time.

When pupils are absent due to illness/exceptional circumstances:

Parents should notify the school when a child is absent, or is due to be absent, for any reason.

- a) If the child is well enough, homework can be provided by the class teacher, to be completed at home.
- b) Otherwise, when the child returns to school, every effort should be made to ensure that he has not fallen behind.

When pupils are absent due to holidays:

The school does not take responsibility for work missed due to holidays taken during school time and will neither assign nor correct work missed during such absences.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong. This can lead to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Success Criteria:

- Better communication between home and school regarding homework.
- High quality of homework completion.
- Effectively meeting the needs of children of differing abilities.

Implementation, Review & Communication

This reviewed policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 28th September 2022. It will be monitored on an ongoing basis and reviewed in the school year 2024-25 or sooner if necessary. It is available to view on the school website as well as by contacting the school for a copy of the policy.

Chairperson: Thomas O'Leary Date: 28/9/22

Principal: Donnie O'Loon Date: 28/9/22