



## **Homework Policy**

### **1. Why give homework?**

- 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.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

### **2. How often is homework given?**

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions.
- 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 an acknowledgment of some special occasion.
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

### **3. What is the content of homework?**

- 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, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Accessing the internet to research or discover further information on a study topic.
- Carrying out a project. This may involve research, collection of information for an individual or group project.

- Observing/recording.
- Making a model to exemplify an item of work.
- Watching a TV programme related to a study topic.
- Completing an exercise to practise, reinforce or apply aspects of the class work, e.g. writing up practical work or notes.
- Revising or taking notes on material covered in class that day.
- Children will often feel that reading and “learning by heart” is not real homework. Parents play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

The task selected by the class teacher will be commensurate with the ability of the students. Where appropriate, for differentiation purposes, teachers may ask students to complete alternative tasks.

#### **4. How much (time) homework?**

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework as recommended by the National Parents Council. 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:

Junior/Senior infants: 0-15 minutes  
First/Second class: 20-30 minutes  
Third/Fourth class: 30-40 minutes  
Fifth/Sixth class: 40-60 minutes

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

Homework will continue to be given up to the second last week of June and may be relaxed at this stage at the discretion of the class teacher.

#### **5. 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
- To prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- 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.

- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

**6. How often should parents monitor homework?**

- Parents should check a child's homework every evening.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework notebook.
- Please check that your child does its homework neatly. Check your child's bag for letters from the school on a regular basis.

**7. 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 a useful part of the learning process for children.

**8. When should parents communicate with the teacher about homework?**

- 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.
- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.

**Remember**

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, there maybe some difficulty that warrants further discussion.

Difficulty with homework leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.