



Homework Policy

This policy was formulated during the 1st term of school year 2006-2007, following consultation with teachers, parents and Board of Management. The draft copy circulated to parents and was discussed at a general meeting of parents and by the B.O.M. in January 2007. This policy is reviewed on a yearly basis.

Rationale

It was felt that we should have a clear policy on homework, as it is an important aspect of the work of the pupils. Educational Research has shown conclusively that a child's learning is significantly improved where parents are involved in the learning process. Home is one of the best areas for this active involvement of parents and child. When parents become involved in children's learning, the children see learning as something important and worthwhile and are much more likely to make progress. Parental help should be given with enthusiasm and obvious pleasure. Parental involvement with homework provides an opportunity for parents to encounter some of the new approaches and methodologies of the new curriculum.

Relationships to Characteristic Spirit of the School

Our school strives to enable each child to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to consolidate the work of the class. It also encourages them to work independently and to take responsibility for completing assignments. We also aim to foster good relations between parents and school and homework provides parents with an opportunity to keep in touch with the child's work.

Aims

- To benefit pupil learning
- To reinforce work done in class
- To develop study skills
- To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes
- To strengthen links between home and school.



Policy

- 1) It is school policy that all classes, except Junior Infants, are regularly given homework and that the teacher will correct it. Junior Infants have informal reading activities in 1st term. This may include more structured reading activities in 2nd and 3rd term.
- 2) Homework can be written work, reading, learning by heart, spellings, tables, drawing, interviewing, designing, research, etc. Reading in both languages, english spellings, and tables should be done every night.
- 3) Homework, based on methodologies of the New Curriculum may take various forms that may not be familiar to parents.
- 4) Parents are responsible for seeing that homework is done properly, but senior pupils should accept responsibility for their own work.
- 5) Teachers will take into account the different capabilities of children when deciding what constitutes acceptable homework and in assigning homework.
- 6) If children are experiencing constant difficulties with homework or spending excessive time doing it, parents should contact the teacher to discuss the issue. An appointment should be made. However it should be noted that some children can spend a lot of time doing very little. It is important that distractions be kept to a minimum and that homework is done before the child becomes overtired. A regular routine is very important with a set time for doing homework.
- 7) Children are expected to do their homework themselves. Parents are asked not to do it for them, but to encourage and help if necessary. Neatness and careful presentation of homework is important.
- 8) If occasionally it is not possible for a child to do homework, a signed note from parents stating this is acceptable.
- 9) Failure to do homework on a regular basis or careless or incomplete work will be noted and child may be required to do it during break times.
- 10) It is school policy to give a written report on each child at the end of the year. This report will state if homework is satisfactory or not. A copy of this report will be kept on the child's file. Homework will also be discussed at the Parent/Teacher meeting.
- 11) The reading of library books is encouraged, but is not seen as homework as it could lessen the child's enjoyment of reading.
- 12) Homework is not given as a form of punishment for breach of discipline, but if work is unfinished in class it may be necessary to finish it at home.
- 13) Any criticism of homework, as to school policy, amount or content should not be discussed in the presence of the child but should be discussed with the teacher.
- 14) The average maximum time suggested for each child to spend on homework is given below.
- 15) Homework should be written in a homework diary each day.
- 16) Generally homework is given each night Monday-Thursday. Weekend homework is at the discretion of the teacher.



Suggested Times for Homework

Infants: 5 – 10 mins

1 st & 2nd Class: 20 mins - ½ hr

3 rd & 4th Class: ½ - 1 hr

5 th & 6th Class: 1 - 1½ hr

Learning Support

Learning Support Teacher only gives reading; children attending Learning Support do the class homework.

Success Criteria

We will regard our policy as a success when we:

- a. Observe good attitudes to homework among pupils and their parents.
- b. Receive positive feedback from parents, teachers, and pupils.
- c. Receive satisfactory homework exercises and assignments from pupils – based on their ability level.

Roles and Responsibilities

Class teacher: Assigns and corrects homework.

Pupil: Does homework to best of his/her ability.

Parent/Guardian: Encourages child to do homework and provides a suitable environment for same. Develops a routine, which ensures that homework can be done.