

HOMEWORK POLICY

The home and school play complementary roles in children's learning. Nowhere is this more evident than in the area of homework. We hope that this Homework Policy jointly formulated by the parents and teachers and sanctioned by the Board of Management will be of benefit to all concerned.

The reasons for homework:

- As a link between home and school. Strengthening the partnership between parents/guardians, teachers and children.
- Parents/Guardians can become actively involved in the child's formal education observe the child's progress and identify any problems that the child may have.
- To evaluate and build on work undertaken in the classroom.
- To give children the opportunity to memorise and further study areas already taught in school, e.g. History, Geography, Poetry, Spelling, Reading, Tables, etc.
- To make use of materials and sources of information which may not be accessible in the classroom.
- As an exercise in self-discipline, to develop independent study habits which can prove invaluable later.

Types of Homework

There is generally a mixture of oral work (study/memorisation) and written work. this balance may vary depending on classwork.

Memorisation, as outlined earlier, forms a very important part of homework and should always be checked as it is often neglected by children.

Infants

In Infant classes, homework is sometimes given but is not recorded by pupils. Parents/guardians at infant level tend to have more contact with the teacher and are generally aware of what the child has to do.

Homework usually consists of oral work, reading or perhaps a worksheet.

It may also involve informal work such as collecting items for the nature or 'colour' table.

First Class - Sixth Class

Homework is generally assigned to all classes from 1st to 6th class, Monday to Thursday and is written into the pupil's Homework Journal.

Homework tends to cover all subjects with the core subjects, Irish, English, Maths, being allocated more time.

Homework at Weekends:

Reading is recommended as an encouragement to children and the reading of library books is encouraged at all times including weekends. At senior level this may involve newspaper or other reading.

Homework is generally not given at weekends. However, homework may be given in certain circumstances, e.g.

Where homework/school work during the week was done incorrectly through carelessness or inattention on the part of the pupil.

Time spent on homework

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

- . The age of the pupil.
- . 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, interruption etc.
- . The time of evening when homework is undertaken.
- . However the following times may be used as a guide by parents:

Junior Infants:

Term 1: 10 minutes oral work (defined by Class teacher)
Term 2 & 3: 10 minutes oral / 10 minutes written.
(Written work could include colouring, letter formation etc)

Senior Infants:

10 minutes oral work / 10 minutes written.

i.e. total for Infants 20 minutes.

1st Class: 15 minutes oral work / 15 minutes written.
Total: 30 minutes.

2nd Class: 15 minutes oral work / 25 minutes written.
Total: 40 minutes.

<u>3rd Class:</u>	30 minutes oral work / 30 minutes written. Total: 60 minutes
<u>4th Class:</u>	30 minutes oral work / 30 minutes written. Total: 60 minutes
<u>5th Class:</u>	30 minutes oral work / 35 minutes written. Total: 1 hour and 5 minutes
<u>6th Class:</u>	30 minutes oral work / 45 minutes written work. Total: 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Periodically, teachers may ask parents/guardians to monitor and note the time taken by pupils to complete assigned homework.

Some difficulties that may arise:

If the child is doing his/her homework under the proper conditions and is spending an inappropriate amount of time at homework the parent/guardian should write a note explaining the difficulty in the child's journal or arrange to meet the class teacher or learning support teacher as appropriate with a view to resolving the issue.

If problems exist or arise at home which may prevent or interfere with a child's homework, the teacher should be notified.

Pupils with learning difficulties:

Parents/guardians of children with learning difficulties should keep in close contact with the teacher/learning support teacher regarding any difficulties encountered.

If these children are working at the class level, parents/guardians are asked to report to the teacher if the child is spending an inappropriate amount of time at homework (e.g. by writing a note in the Homework Journal).

These children may get less homework in certain subjects or get different homework.

How can you help?

- A. Encourage a positive attitude towards homework from an early age.
- B. Praise rather than criticise.
- C. Agree with your child a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account his/her age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- D. Help the child to do his/her homework by providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions, T.V. and other children.
- E. Parents/guardians are advised not to over-help by doing the work for the child i.e. giving him/her the sentence, the answer, etc. However, some children will require assistance and a one to one situation with the parent/guardian can be beneficial.
- F. Encourage the child to organise himself/herself for homework e.g. to have all the required materials to hand (books, pens, etc). The pupil should have the Homework Journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- G. Some pupils seem to develop a negative attitude towards **IRISH**. 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 throughout first and second level education.
- H. If a child has a difficulty with **MATHS** help him/her using the method outlined in

the Maths Book or in school.

- I. Presentation - where neatness presentation are concerned, encourage the child to do his/her best writing, etc. (within a reasonable time limit.).
- J. Parents/guardians are asked to sign the Homework Journal having checked that all assigned work has been completed.
- K. 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, if required.

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF
MANAGEMENT**

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____

Principal: _____

Date: _____