



## **Homework Policy**

### **Introduction**

Homework is an integral link between school and home. Parents can monitor their child's progress through continual reference to homework diaries and liaison with teachers.

### **Rationale**

- ◆ Further strengthening of home-school links.
- ◆ Reinforcing the learning experienced by the child during the school day.
- ◆ Ensuring clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework.

### **Aims and Objectives**

- ◆ To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work.
- ◆ To enable children develop a sense of responsibility and independence.
- ◆ To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is achievable.
- ◆ To foster self-discipline and study skills.
- ◆ To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes.
- ◆ To develop links between school and home.

### **Resources**

- ◆ Homework diary
- ◆ Whiteboard

- ◆ Work sheets, Texts Books, folders, copies etc.
- ◆ I.T.

### **Policy Content**

It is school policy to assign appropriate class-related levels of homework as an important reinforcement in the learning process. Good habits are fostered, independent learning is promoted and self-discipline is developed. Homework is normally given at the end of the school day.

The following table advises appropriate times that homework might take and subject matter homework involves.

- **Junior Infants:**                      **0-15 minutes**
  - Sounds (Jolly Phonics)
  - Reading
  - Writing
- **Senior infants:**                      **0-15 minutes**
  - Sounds (Jolly Phonics)
  - Reading
  - Writing
- **First Class:**                              0-20 minutes
  - Reading, Maths, Written Work, Spellings, Tables and Library reading
- **Second Class:**                        0-20 minutes
  - Reading, Maths, Irish, Written Work (Phonics), Tables, Spellings and Library Reading.
- **Third Class:**                            0-30 minutes.
  - Tables, Spellings Maths, Irish, Reading, Written Work, Topical, Work, Library Reading.
- **Fourth Class:**                        0-45 minutes
  - Maths, English, Irish, Reading, Writing, Topical work, Library Reading.
- **Fifth Class:**                            0-45 minutes

- Maths, Irish, English Reading, Spellings, Tables, topical Work, Misc.
- **Sixth Class:** 0-45 minutes
  - Irish, English, Maths, Spelling, Tables, topical Work, Misc.

**Note:** Some subjects such as English, Irish, may have more emphasis on oral work.

Homework is mostly based on class-related work. It attempts to keep a balance between reading, writing and learning. Time spent in reading and learning is as important as written work. The different levels of the pupils are taken into account when homework is assigned.

- Homework is given from Mondays to Thursdays and generally is not given at the weekends unless exceptional work like projects is expected.
- Homework is not linked to behaviour but occasionally children are rewarded with reduced homework if they have worked and behaved well.
- Reading is routinely given and should be a priority.
- If homework cannot be completed on a given night, a written notice should be forwarded to the teacher.
- Incomplete homework may have to be finished by the child at lunch break in the Hall.
- Parents/Guardians should supervise and check homework nightly and only sign homework notebook when work is completed satisfactorily (Classes 1 – 6) Junior infants and Senior Infants work sheets should be signed.

### **Procedures for Parents/Guardians**

The table outlining rough time guidelines only operates successfully when children are working in a suitable environment.

- Remove distraction – TV, radios, mobile phone etc.
- Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
- Do not do your child's homework.
- Send a note in homework diary (or other) if a problem arises.
- Check and sign homework diaries.
- Discourage morning homework.

**Evaluation.**

In class corrections.  
Checking homework diaries  
Parent-Teacher meetings  
Class Tests  
Pupil profiling  
Teacher observation  
Feedback

**Homework and holidays**

It is school policy not to allocate or prepare homework for children who are on holiday during school time. We do not assign work for children for their holidays, nor set catch up work for them on their return. It is our policy to discourage pupils from taking holidays during term time. If a child is absent for twenty or more days in the school year, we are obliged to contact the National Welfare Board. Parents/Guardians of children who are sick for an extended period/hospitalized should talk with the class teacher.

## **Ratification**

**This policy was ratified by the BOM on: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

**Signed : Fr. Cathal Ó Fearraí**

**Chairperson, Board of Management**

**Date of Next Review: March 2014**