

Homework Policy

Homework is given:

- To re-inforce 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 practise 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.
- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.
- At the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children may earn a "Homework Pass" . A pupil can use a pass – no more than once a month.
- 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.

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
- Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

Guidelines for time spent at homework:

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 Infants	0 - 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour

Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. Sometimes children are given "homework off" as an acknowledgement of some special occasion or achievement.

Children from First to Sixth class should write their homework in their Homework Diary. If homework is not done, a note to the teacher should be written in the Homework Diary or emailed to the teachers email.

Teachers will also use the Homework Diary or email to communicate with parents if homework is not satisfactorily completed.

Pupils in the infants classes will receive homework outlined by the teachers on a weekly basis.

Parental help:

- 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.

Monitoring homework:

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers
- Messages to your child's teacher may be put in the Homework Diary or emailed directly to the class teacher if preferred.
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed
- If homework is not completed through the child's own fault e.g. forgotten book please ensure it is submitted the following day.
- 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 journal 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 classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

Contact the teacher:

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

Remember

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

Ratification and Review:

This Policy was ratified by BOM on Nov 22nd 2021.

Signed: _____

Nelius McCarthy
Chairperson BOM

Date: _____