**Homework Policy**



Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to Homework diaries and liaison with teachers. Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and life-long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it reinforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child’s education. The homework policy of Insert School Name N.S. has been formulated by staff with parental input, and endorsed by the Board of Management.

**Relationship to School Ethos**

The school also encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. The homework policy of the school facilitates these ideals.

**Aims and Objectives**

The primary objectives of the policy are –

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

**Resources**

* Homework Diary
* Whiteboard
* Work sheets, textbooks, folders, exercise copies etc.
* I.C.T.

**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 homework.

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 or whatever is considered appropriate by the teacher. 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 well done.

* Homework is generally based on class related work or work already covered in class. It should contain a balance between reading, learning and writing. Time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work
* The assigned homework is explained to children in advance. The different levels of the pupils are also taken into account
* It is not school policy to issue homework as an exercise in isolation. It will in most instances be an integral part of the subject being taught and be consistent.
* The Learning Support Teachers will occasionally give homework to their allocated pupils but only as a reinforcement of class work. Reading is routinely given as homework and should be accorded priority consideration
* If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher. If homework cannot be completed on a particular night, parents are asked to forward a written note
* Teachers check homework on a daily basis. Some homework may be self correcting. Children who do not complete homework satisfactorily may be required to re do this work during lunch break. Parents are advised to supervise and check homework nightly
* All children have a homework diary which parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent
* “Homework off” may be given at a teachers discretion. In general, all school homework will encompass a wide spectrum of learning experiences such as reading, writing, tables, spelling, learning ‘by heart’, drawing, collecting information, colouring and finishing class work.

**When is homework given?**

Homework may be set Monday to Thursdays inclusive at the discretion of the teacher.

Occasionally homework may be given at the teacher’s discretion at the weekend or during the holidays if:

* it has been neglected during the week
* the child has not made a fair effort
* work is untidy
* other unforeseen circumstances

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.

**How much time should be spent completing 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. If a parent/guardian is concerned about the length of time their child takes to complete homework, they should make an appointment to consult with the teacher concerned.

**Pupils should:**

* Enter homework accurately in homework diary and ensure they take home relevant books and copies
* Complete homework assignments to the best of their abilities

**Parents should:**

* Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
* Encourage their child to work independently as far as possible.
* Resist over-helping
* Encourage their child to organise him/herself for homework.
* Have all books and materials to hand.
* The pupil should have the Homework Journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
* Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
* Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
* Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
* Only sign homework journal when all of the homework has been completed, written and otherwise
* Check that their child has all the necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, tin whistle, P.E. clothes as needed for the next day.

**How often do teachers monitor homework?**

* Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, with 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.
* **What happens when the homework is not done?**

If homework is incomplete or unavailable for correction, a written explanation is required. Incomplete homework will be completed at a time specified by the teacher.

When homework is not done regularly the teacher contacts parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parents and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

* **When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?**

When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
When your child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspect.
If parents/guardians feel time being spent on homework is excessive for their child.

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 teacher concerned.