

# **HOMework POLICY**

## **AIMS**

1. To reinforce concepts taught in school.
2. As an exercise in self-discipline.
3. As a home-school link.
4. Sometimes as preparation for the next day.

## **THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK**

Homework is set for 4-5 nights per week. It is school policy that pupils who breach classroom rules and/or yard rules on three occasions per week will be requested to undertake homework on Friday night. Pressure to complete the syllabus in a subject at senior level may also dictate that a class is asked to complete homework on a weekend. The nature of the homework will vary between different classes.

In general homework is a mixture of oral work which will need an input from parents and **written work which should be checked by parents**. An activity using a digital platform (e.g. seesaw) may also be set for homework in any class.

Each homework may involve one or more of the following:

### **Reading and spelling**

- In Junior Infants reading books are taken home. Pupils 'read' at home and/or practise key words with their family.
- Reading assignments from a Class Reader or Library Book are given from Senior Infants upwards.
- Both Junior and Senior Infants may be asked to do a little bit of writing or drawing based on the Phonics Programme.
- The majority of teachers from 1<sup>st</sup> class upwards use Spell Well Workbook (Primary Ed). The idea is that a unit of spelling and assignments based on their usage is completed in approximately one week. From time to time a teacher might experiment with an alternative series on an individual or small group basis. Spellings for Senior Infants may begin during the school year.
- Irish spellings and reading are regularly set from 2nd class upwards.

### **Written assignments**

- Written assignments may include any of the following - English, History, Geography, Gaelge, Health Education or Handwriting Practice.
- Both Junior and Senior Infants may be asked to complete a Literacy or Numeracy Assignment.

### **Mathematics**

- Mathematics are regularly given. In all classes this usually involves consolidation and/or application of concepts already taught. Tables are regularly set for memorisation from 1<sup>st</sup> Class - 4<sup>th</sup> Class.

### **Project Work**

- This may involve research, collection of information for individual or group project.

### **Preparatory Work**

From time to time preparatory work for a pending Art Class, science activity or other project may be set for homework.

### **RECOMMENDED TIMES**

|                           |   |                          |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>INFANTS</b>            | : | Up to 30 minutes         |
| <b>FIRST &amp; SECOND</b> | : | Average 30 to 40 minutes |
| <b>THIRD &amp; FOURTH</b> | : | Average 45 minutes       |
| <b>FIFTH &amp; SIXTH</b>  | : | Average 1 hour.          |

### **CHILDREN EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES**

Amount of homework set is at the discretion of the class or support teacher.

### **WEEKENDS**

Up to third class: No written homework on Friday unless asked to do so as a discipline.

4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> class: At the discretion of the Class Teacher

### **HOW DOES THE SCHOOL HELP PUPILS ORGANISE THEIR HOMEWORK**

- At Infant level homework is written down for pupils by the teacher.
- Each pupil from 1st Class upwards is given a homework diary at the beginning of the year and asked to copy down homework from white board or interactive board.
- We try to ensure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class and are written down in the diary.
- We aim to mark or respond to homework in a way that is helpful to pupils. Availability of time is a problem at senior level and pupils at this stage should be aware that they learn for themselves and not for teacher.

### **HOW CAN PARENTS OR GUARDIAN HELP WITH HOMEWORK**

- Check that homework details are filled in clearly and regularly in the homework diary. Parents need to check that all homework has been **completed to the best of the child's ability and then sign the Homework Diary.**

- b) Help your child organise his/her time to best advantage so that things are not left to the last minute or forgotten.
- c) Try to ensure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
- d) Take a positive and active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- e) Let us know if there are problems with homework which you cannot resolve. Contact the class teacher in the first instance who may be able to help.

### **FAILURE TO HAND IN HOMEWORK.**

- We expect homework to be given in on time.
- Incomplete homework should be accompanied by a letter from parent or guardian.
- Pupils who repeatedly fail to hand in homework may be asked to complete the work at lunch time under teacher supervision.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

- **No homework is set for school holiday periods.**
- **Sick children are not requested by the school to undertake homework or missed school assignments.**
- Parents who feel that their child is capable of doing additional work apart from set homework are encouraged to engage their child/children in additional worthwhile learning activities at home - reading, story writing, poetry writing, computation practice, practical activities involving weighing and measuring, revision of spellings, sentences based on spellings, listening to and discussing the News are some suggestions.
- Generally speaking, reading and spelling can be predicted and may be continued during absences.
- **A homework schedule is not provided in advance to those pupils who absent themselves for the purpose of holidays during a term.**
- For children who experience long term health problems and miss school regularly, the parent or teacher may request an appointment to discuss the issue.

**N.B. It is necessary to adopt the above section as school policy to minimise disruption and to ensure and maintain the quality of teaching available to those in school.**

Compiled: November 1995

Revised: March 2001/Amended November 2001

Reviewed April 2008

Reviewed and Amended: April 2013

Review and Amended: September 2017

Reviewed and Amended: December 2020

Ratified by Board of Management on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020