



Homework Policy

Introductory Statement

Homework is an integral part of the learning process. It provides pupils with the opportunity of revisiting learning experiences encountered during the school day and of practising the skills and concepts associated with those learning experiences. Homework also fosters independence, self-reliance, responsibility and life-long learning. Pupils are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability.

Rationale

The core of this policy is to promote a consistent approach to homework across all classes.

Homework Aims

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills and to develop a work ethic

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Homework may be given on Fridays:
 - if homework has been neglected during the week.
 - in senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.
- Active homework will generally be given once a month (normally the first Thursday of the month). Pupils will be provided with reading/ learning homework in conjunction with this active homework.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, has not made an acceptable effort or has presented untidy work.
- Homework will not be given to pupils who miss school for short-term illnesses or holidays.

How much (time) homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time depending on levels of concentration, distraction etc. 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.

Infant Classes: 10 minutes

First and Second Classes: 20 – 30 minutes

Third and Fourth Classes: 40 – 50 minutes

Fifth and Sixth Classes: 50 – 60 minutes

If the time spent at homework (without distractions) is consistently longer than the recommended time, parents should communicate this to the teacher in their child's homework diary.

What is the Content of Homework

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading, learning, written and online 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, oral language work, pieces to be learned and finishing work started in class.
- Parents play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring that this work is done well.
- Seesaw is the digital platform used in our school. Pupils may have activities to complete on Seesaw, at the discretion of the class teacher.

How much help should parents give?

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing your child with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- Preventing interruptions or distractions, like the television
- Allowing your child to work independently as far as possible
- Discussing your child's homework to ensure understanding
- Checking homework when it is completed and sign
- Most importantly, praising your child's efforts at every opportunity

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check completed homework and sign their child's homework diary each evening.
- The pupil's homework diary is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Please check that your child records homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item in the homework diary when completed.

Implementation

The implementation of this policy is on-going.

Ratification & Communication

This policy was originally ratified by the Board of Management on 16th May 2019 and again in March 2024. It will be further reviewed and amended, as necessary. This policy is available for the wider school community on the school website.

Signed: Linda McMahon

Date: 7th March 2024

Principal

Derek Whitcroft

Chairperson of the Board of Management