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Homework Policy

1. Why give homework?

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher & 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. The Learning Support /Resource Teacher also assigns homework in the case of special needs pupils. 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.

2. How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.

There are two exceptions:

- If homework has been neglected during the week
- In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.

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 be sometimes given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

No written homework in December.

No homework in June.

3. 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 work”.

Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be “learned to 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 items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

4. How much (time) 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 guidelines only:

Junior Infants: 1 piece of written work plus learning per night (Reading, blending etc)

Senior Infants: 1 piece of written work plus learning per night (Reading, blending etc)

Rang 1: 1 piece of written work plus learning per night (Reading, tables, spellings etc)

Rang 2: 1 piece of written work plus learning per night (Reading, tables, spellings etc)

Rang 3: 1 piece of written work plus learning per night (Reading, tables, spellings etc)

Rang 4: 1 piece of written work plus learning per night (Reading, tables, spellings etc)

Rang 5: 2 pieces of written work plus learning per night (Reading, tables, spellings etc)

Rang 6: 2 pieces of written work plus learning per night (Reading, tables, spellings etc)

Parents may decide to do extra work at their own discretion but that is up to each individual family.

If a teacher feels a particular student may need additional support in a certain curricular area then the teacher will make contact with the parents and a plan will be put in place that suits all parties.

5. How much help should parents give?

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 TV or other children
- Children should do as much written homework themselves as possible and parents should only help when the child has difficulty
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child 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.

6. How often should parents monitor homework?

Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening. Children in older classes may be at the discretion of the teacher to have weekly signing only except in circumstances specifically requested by the teacher.

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.

Ideally all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal)

Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.

7. How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large 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 a week.

Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves under the

direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

8. 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 the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

In the event of any of the above please make contact with the teacher via email or write a note in your child's homework journal.

We understand that unexpected things can happen at home (Eg. a family emergency etc) and sometimes it is not possible to do homework. In such cases please make contact with the class teacher when time allows.

9. When should homework be done?

Each family situation is different – both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh; however, some children need a break before starting homework.

Homework should never be left until morning before school.

Remember:

When 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