

# Homework Policy 2024



# Homework Policy

## Rationale

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, cooperation, responsibility, good work habits, preparation for second level education and lifelong learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school and provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

In general, homework is prepared in school and meant to be achievable by a child working, on his/her own, to the best of his/her ability. However, there are also times when homework will require a parent to assist their child to complete a task. In younger classes, and primary school in general, parental input and supervision is required. Homework tasks can be used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity and self discovery.

## How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and with reading only on a weekend. Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children may be given a 'night off' written homework as a treat or as an acknowledgment of some special occasion.

## Homework Content

Usually, homework contains a balance between reading tasks, oral work, research, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance is not always prescriptive and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to oral, reading and learning tasks is as important as written work. Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, vocabulary/poem to learn, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class. Parents play an important role in listening to reading or oral work and items to be learned, ensuring this work is done well.

## Reading

Children will have reading each night (Monday to Friday) as part of their homework. This will take the form of either a class level text, individual ability-based text or both. Reading in English is given from junior infants upwards while Irish reading is introduced in First Class. Irish reading is prepared in school and also prepared by the teacher and posted on either the WhatsApp or Aladdin platform. Parents are responsible for accessing these recordings for their child.

Please note that parents are responsible for ensuring that reading books are not damaged and returned to school each day in good condition. Damaged or lost books must be replaced by

parents. In some cases, it is not possible to replace an individual book and a new set of books will have to be purchased by the parent in question.

### **Spelling**

A phonetic & patterned approach is taken to the teaching of spelling. Spelling preparation takes place daily and pattern identification, rules of spelling and sounds are taught in class. The method of Look, read, cover, write, check is used in the learning of spellings. Pupils should practice writing their spellings out nightly in order to create good work habits.

### **Duration of Homework**

The following are 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. When considering the amount of time spent on homework, one must not include time spent on doing other unrelated activity e.g. wandering off to play, having tv on in the background etc. Time spent depends on the child's concentration, ability and application.

The following are general guidelines:

- Infant classes - up to 20 minutes
- 1st & 2nd class - up to 30 minutes
- 3rd & 4th class - up to 45 minutes
- 5th & 6th class - up to 60 minutes

(If a child has spent the recommended time working on homework, parents may "sign off" if they feel the child has genuinely given their full, undistracted effort to the task.

Homework is differentiated for pupils with additional educational needs. Homework may be assigned by both the class teacher and/or SEN teacher following collaboration between them.

### **Pupils should:**

- Write down homework accurately in homework diaries
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability
- Present written homework neatly.

### **Parents/Guardians should:**

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping or providing answers in order to finish up quickly.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, being aware of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Providing a quiet space with a suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and screens.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Sign the homework diary (daily) checking that all homework is complete.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework diary, copies, pencils and any other items needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework diary.
- Parents should not complete written tasks for their child.

### **Teachers Should:**

- Set meaningful homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- Record patterns of incomplete homework and inform parent.
- Monitor homework on a regular basis to help identify pupils with special difficulties.
- Provide feedback to parents on homework when necessary, or during the annual P/T meetings.

### **What happens when homework is not done?**

Homework should be completed each night. However, the school understands that at certain times children may have an unusual activity after school that leaves little time for homework to be completed. For example- Due to family commitments or involvement in a special occasion. In

'force majeure' situations like this, parents should write a note in the homework diary and their child will be excused from homework. (This should not happen on a regular basis. It should not reoccur on the same day each week.) Children may work ahead on their regular homework (e.g. reading and spellings) to allow time for after school clubs at the discretion of their parents. Parents should take responsibility for this as the primary educator of their child outside of school. When homework is not completed, the teacher will contact the parent/guardian, initially via the pupil's homework diary to try to resolve the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent/guardian and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Please note that if homework is incomplete and there is no explanation given by parents - no note in diary, on Aladdin or email, pupils will be asked to complete their homework, in school during a break time.

**Children on holidays or outside the country during school term time.**

We ask parents to respect the integrity of the school calendar by not planning holidays during school terms. No schoolwork will be given to children going on holidays during term time.

Children should not use the internet for any homework without parental supervision. Please refer to our Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

This policy was reviewed during term 1 of the 2024/2025 school year.

Ratification date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed principal: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_