

Context for this policy

Homework provides the children with the opportunity of revisiting learning experiences encountered during the school day and of practising the skills and concepts associated with those learning experiences. In the senior classes some homework is designed to challenge the children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity. The children are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability – no more, no less.

In 2021/22 we carried out a parent's survey to get feedback on homework in the school (**Appendix 1**). In that survey 76% of parents said homework was important and 60% reported they had a positive attitude towards homework. However, 33% either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "I think my child gets too much homework and it should be reduced in quantity."

Why give homework?

- To re-inforce 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 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not completed their homework, has not made a suitable effort or has presented unsatisfactory work.

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 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 by 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 and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

How long should homework take?

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. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants

Maximum time homework should take: 10 mins.

An example of homework given is;

Children have very little homework in infants. They will practice their numbers, writing, letter sounds and reading.

Senior Infants

Maximum time homework should take : 10 – 15 mins.

An example of homework given is;

The level of homework in senior infants is similar to junior infants with more emphases on reading and writing.

First Class

Maximum time homework should take: 20 mins.

An example of homework given is;

Some spellings and tables to learn
1 page of reading
Mental maths or Grow in Love or Stay Safe

Second Class

Maximum time homework should take: 25 mins.

An example of homework given is;

Some spellings and tables to learn
1 page of reading
Mental maths or Grow in Love or Stay Safe
2 or 3 sentences to write

Third Class

Maximum time homework should take: 30 mins.

An example of homework given is;

Mental Maths and tables

Spellings

Reading; 10-15 minutes Accelerated Reading

Irish writing

Maths book

Fourth Class

Maximum time homework should take: 40 mins.

An example of homework given is;

Spellings: English and Irish

Maths:

Tables

2 pieces of written work

Reading; 10-15 minutes Accelerated Reading

Research / project work from time to time.

Fifth Class

Maximum time homework should take: 50 mins

Fifth class homework is viewed as a form of preparation for homework in Secondary School.

Pupils learn to organise homework time

Learning (sp. tables, poetry etc.)

Maths work

Written work

Reading; 10-15 minutes Accelerated Reading

Sixth Class

Maximum time homework should take: 1 hr.

An example of homework given is;

Spelling activities in English and Irish

Mental Maths

Tables

Reading; 10-15 minutes Accelerated Reading Projects

Corrections from previous work and tests do not constitute part of homework time. Unfinished work in school may be given in order for each child to keep up to date with class work.

Learning Support

Learning Support teachers will have a special programme of work for those children needing additional support. This programme can be arranged with parents to suit each child's individual needs.

Parents should try to help their children with homework by

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- Endeavouring to prevent interruptions or distractions to the work, like T.V. or other children
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child.
- If a child has substantial difficulty completing a particular task within a reasonable period of time, the task should be left uncompleted so as not to cause frustration and anxiety for the child. A note explaining the difficulty should be given to the teacher so that the problem can be addressed the following day.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening.
- 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

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Teachers like to check homework on a daily basis.
- 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.
- Children themselves under the direction of the teacher may check some items of homework (and classwork). This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

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 she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time in this policy.

Signed;

Mary Dune

Date:

26/5/2022

Chairperson BoM