

HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between the school and the home. It allows parents to monitor the progress of their children while ensuring that the learning process, begun in the classroom is reinforced. Good study habits are fostered, independent learning and self-discipline is promoted. It allows children to practice skills learned and to use research based on their school work to further increase their knowledge and awareness of a particular subject. This policy, originally drawn up in October, 2005 attempts to further strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. Parents, pupils, staff and members of the Board of Management were all involved in the review.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work.
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes.
- To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a menu of work that is do-able.
- To provide clarity to all as to the recommended time to be spent on and content of homework.
- To further develop links between home and school.

ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

- Class-related levels of homework will be assigned from Mondays to Thursday. A teacher may decide to reward a class for good behaviour or effort by reducing homework on a particular night.
- Homework will be relevant and contain a balance between reading, written work and learning.
- It will be explained to children in advance.
- Homework assigned will be corrected and used for error analysis.
- Homework will be differentiated so as to take account of differing levels of ability within a classroom. Class teachers and members of the Special needs Team, having discussed the needs of a child will decide on the amount of homework and who will have responsibility for that assignment and its correction.
- Homework can be given at weekends if a child has neglected it during the week or in exceptional circumstances where a staff member might wish research or project work to be carried out. A staff member may also decide that uncompleted homework be done during a break time. Staff will ensure that adequate supervision is put in place.
- Teachers will encourage pupils to read over the weekends.

- Teachers will inform parents in writing initially if homework is not being completed. If a pattern of non- completion is emerging, they will invite parents to the school to address the matter.
- Copies and samples of homework will be available to parents at Parent-Teacher meetings.
- Pupils may be asked to complete activities at home involving the use of ICT e.g. research related internet activities, Mathletics activities. Any website recommended by the school for home research will have been viewed by the teacher beforehand.

ROLE OF PARENTS

- To ensure that suitable surroundings and time are available to the child to complete homework.
- Supervise all homework, ensure it is completed and sign it on completion.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to monitor their child's internet usage at home at all times.

POLICY

All school homework will encompass a wide spectrum of learning experiences. The following is an outline of time allocation for the various class levels –

○ Junior Infants	10 minutes
○ Senior Infants	15 - 20 minutes
○ First Class	20 - 25 minutes
○ Second Class	20 - 30 minutes
○ Third Class	30 - 45 minutes
○ Fourth Class	40 - 50 minutes
○ Fifth Class	45 - 50 minutes
○ Sixth Class	45 - 60 minutes

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Feedback from parents and staff
- Corrected Homework
- Teacher Observation
- Pupil Satisfaction

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy.

RATIFICATION / COMMUNICATION

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 9th November, 2010 and was amended in June 11.

It is posted on the school website and is available in hard copy from the office. It also forms part of the Information Booklet given to parents at the orientation night for new pupils.

REVIEW

It will be reviewed by all concerned in 2015.

REFERENCES

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|------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| i. | The Essential Parents Guide to the Primary School | B. Gilsenan |
| ii. | Your Child in the Primary School - | I.N.T.O. |
| iii. | Your Child's Learning | D.E.S. Primary School Curriculum |

APPENDIX 1
ROLE OF PARENTS

- Remove all distractions i.e. no television, music or younger children about.
- Choose a time that suits you and your child to complete the work.
- Encourage the child to carry out all work neatly and to keep copies and books clean and tidy.
- If homework is causing stress or worry, parents are to request a meeting with the class teacher to discuss the matter.
- If homework cannot be completed for a legitimate reason, parents should inform the teacher in the child's homework journal.
- If the amount of time taken by a child to complete homework greatly exceeds the recommended time, inform the teacher.
- If your child is working independently and does not require your assistance, it is still important to show interest in what is being done and to sign off on work completed.
- Discourage morning homework.
- Praise your child's efforts at every opportunity and under no circumstances complete your child's work.