

Homework Policy

September 2019

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Homework Policy

The purpose of homework is to allow pupils to consolidate skills and revise work covered in school. It can also act as a valuable indicator to parents of topics being taught in the classroom and of how their children are progressing with schoolwork. Homework can be viewed from many perspectives, but when viewed positively, children enjoy sharing school activities and experiences with parents at home. The child's homework diary is seen as a link between parents, child and teacher and can be used as a means of communication between home and school. Please note any queries you may have, so that the teacher can deal with them. **It is of great help to teachers if parents take the time to check that homework is properly completed and sign their child's homework diary/ reading record to confirm this.**

Please help your child to follow the guidelines below regarding homework. It takes time and effort to develop good study habits, but will lead to happier, stress free homework!

1. Set aside a quiet regular time for homework.
2. Complete homework early in the afternoon- children who are tired later in the day may take an awful lot longer to complete their work.
3. Your child should sit comfortably at a table.
4. Make sure the study area is properly lit.
5. Encourage your child to keep books and copies clean, neat and tidy.
6. Organise all materials before studying.
7. Have pencils, erasers, sharpeners etc to hand.
8. Avoid watching T.V., listening to music or talking on the telephone while your child is trying to study.
9. If your child is working independently, be available to help and show an interest in what is being done.

Praise your child's efforts at every opportunity. If for any reason, homework cannot be done, let the teacher know. Homework Passes should be used if your child cannot complete his/her homework for whatever reason eg. a family event/ sports event etc. As a Homework pass is a reward earned by a pupil for good behaviour, they should be allowed to choose when to use it. If you find that one particular aspect of homework is taking a long time, encourage your child to leave that subject and move onto another area. This is to prevent children from becoming hung up on one area with which they may have some difficulty. If there are any problems with homework, please talk to the teacher to let them know and encourage your child to do the same. It is important that pupils see parents and teachers communicating positively with each other regarding homework. Ideally children in the senior classes should be capable of completing their homework unsupervised to encourage independent and effective work practices. **However, please check that homework is being done properly and sign your child's diary each day.**

Details of Homework (Oral and Written)

Junior Infants Phonics activities and/or reading Monday – Thursday. *Approx.10mins.*
Children may take home library books for their parents to read with them.

(Minimum time 10 minutes)

Senior Infants *Short written activity, reading, words/ blending activity. Spellings (one unit per week from spelling book)*
Monday-Thursday. *Approx 15 mins.* Children may take home library books for their parents to read with them.

(Minimum time 15 minutes)

First Class English reading each day *Approx 10 mins.*
Spellings (one unit per week from spelling book)
Tables (one set per week)
Written exercises (Monday to Thursday from Spelling book)
Mental Maths Monday to Thursday (from October)

(Maximum time 20-25 minutes)

Second Class English reading each day *Approx 10 mins.*
Spellings (one unit per week from spelling book)
Tables / Speed test (one set per week)
Written exercise (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
Mental Maths (each day)

(Maximum time 25-30 minutes)

Third Class English reading each day (approx 10 mins)
Irish reading each day
Spellings (one unit per week from spelling book)
Irish spellings
Tables/Speed test (one set per week)
Written exercise (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)
Maths exercise (Wednesdays)
Mental Maths (each day)

(Maximum time 30-35 minutes)

Fourth Class English reading each day *Approx 10 mins.*
Irish reading each day
Spellings (one unit per week from spelling book)
Irish spellings
Tables/speed test (one set per week)
Written exercise (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)
Maths exercise (Wednesdays)
Mental Maths (each day)

(Maximum time 40-45 minutes)

Fifth Class English reading each day *Approx 10 mins.*
Irish reading each day
Spellings (one unit per week from spelling book)
Irish spellings
Tables/speed test (one set per week)
Written exercise (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)
Maths exercise (Wednesdays)
Mental Maths (each day)

(Maximum time 50-55 minutes)

Sixth Class English reading each day *Approx 10 mins.*
Irish reading each day
Spellings (one unit per week from spelling book)
Irish spellings
Tables/speed test (one set per week)
Written exercise (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)
Maths exercise (Wednesdays)
Mental Maths (each day)

(Maximum time 1 Hour)

Time spent on homework

Children work at different paces and the speed at which homework is completed is dependent on a number of factors ranging from the child's ability to the environment in which the child is working. Homework may be differentiated for individual pupils as necessary. The following times are meant as an approximate guide only – some children will work more quickly, others will take longer to complete their homework. However if a child is taking much more time than the guidelines below it is important that the teacher is informed of this.

- *Junior Infants* 10 minutes (minimum)
- *Senior Infants* 15 minutes (minimum)
- *First Class* 20-25 minutes
- *Second Class* 25-30 minutes
- *Third Class* 30-35 minutes
- *Fourth Class* 40-45 minutes
- *Fifth Class* 50-55 minutes
- *Sixth Class* 1 hour

Notes:

- Teachers may vary homework from time to time, depending on areas they are working on in the classroom.
- Pupils in the senior classes are regularly asked to complete 1-2 written exercises over the period of a week, usually in History, Geography or Science. It is up to the individual pupil to organise themselves to complete the assignment during the agreed time.
- Pupils may, from time to time, be involved in project work in class which will necessitate them carrying out some research during homework time.
- Pupils may be asked to learn a poem, song etc. as part of their homework assignments.
- Active Homework- as part of our work in encouraging increased activity and exercise, active homework involving exercise may be given in the month of June instead of written work.
- At the beginning of a new school year, class teachers will gradually ease into full homework. Usually, home work is started with just reading and spelling for the first week, followed by tables and mental maths in week 2, Irish reading and spelling in week 3, and additional written work in week 4 (where applicable to the class level).

Homework for Absent Children

Following a request from a parent/guardian for a teacher to prepare work for a child who is absent for a period of more than one week, the following procedures apply:

- If the child is absent due to illness, the class teacher will endeavour to provide some work in order to ensure that the child will not be too far behind class work on his/her return.
- If the absence is due to holidays or some other reason, then the advice is that the child should read during the time off.
- At all times it is school policy to encourage children to attend school every day where possible, in this way all children will receive an equal opportunity to learn.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on _____[date]

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management Principal

Date: _____ Date: _____