



## Homework Policy

### Rationale

Homework is an important element of the learning process in the following ways:-

1. It reinforces and expands classroom learning.
2. It instills in pupils the importance of self-directed independent learning habits.
3. It encourages pupils to take responsibility for their own learning.
4. It is an important way for parents to see how their children are progressing at school and the subjects being taught.
5. It lays the foundation for a process of lifelong learning.

This policy acknowledges that there are many types of homework. The type of homework should be appropriate to the needs of the student, subject and to the individual teaching and learning methodology.

### Aims

1. To benefit pupil learning by reinforcing work done in class.
2. To develop study skills.
3. To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes.
4. To strengthen links between home and school, as parents notice difficulties, which may have been missed in school.
5. To develop independent working skills.
6. To raise awareness of difficulties of the children, as the work is completed independently, with no input from other children.

### Homework

1. Homework consolidates work which has already been done in class.
2. The amount of time spent doing homework varies e.g. junior/senior infants 15 minutes, first /second 20-30min., third / fourth 30-45 min., fifth/sixth class 45-60min.
3. All assigned homework should be written in the child's journal and this should be signed by a parent/guardian each night on completion of same.
4. Homework both written and oral should be given in reasonable quantities on a regular basis and parents are requested to check and see that it is neatly executed and fully completed.
5. If for some reason, homework cannot be completed, a signed note stating this must be sent to the class teacher.
6. Homework not completed and without a note of explanation is expected to be completed at a point during the following day or the following evening and signed by a parent or guardian.
7. Teachers will monitor pupils whose parents are writing notes of excuse for homework not being completed on a regular basis and bring it to parents' attention if required to do so.
8. Should a child regularly fail to do his/her homework the class teacher will bring the matter to the parent/guardians' attention by a written note in the child's journal.
9. No homework is given at weekends, and at the teacher's discretion on birthdays and other special occasions.
10. It is expected that pupils complete all homework. Children with learning difficulties will be given differentiated homework tasks.
11. Tables and spellings will be given nightly from first to sixth class.
12. Homework given will be corrected by the class teacher in so far as it is possible, self corrected or in certain circumstances, corrected by another pupil.
13. Homework is seen as a way of training pupils in independent study.

### Tables

1. All classes first to sixth do tables each day as part of mental / oral maths.
2. Tables test to be carried out once a week.
3. Look for speed in response to tables in third – six classes.
4. Mental maths and tables games will also be used to develop speed.





## Spellings

1. Spellings are part of nightly homework from senior infants (after Christmas CVC and tricky words) – sixth class.
2. Irish spellings each night as part of homework from second – sixth class.
3. Test in spellings Irish / English weekly. This can take several forms and teachers should consider using different methods for testing spellings.
4. It is recommended that the teacher record results.

## Spellings in Junior Classes

1. Spellings to be phonically based as far as possible.
2. Spellings from need.

## Spellings in Middle/Senior Classes

1. Spellings from need.
2. Spellings from different sources (History, Geography).
3. Irish phrases.
4. Spelling books.

## Guidelines for Parents/ Guardians

1. Set aside a quiet regular time, sitting at a table. Make sure that electronic devices such as televisions, laptops, mobile phones, radios etc are not part of the homework routine.
2. Where possible, make sure that homework is completed as soon after school as possible.
3. Encourage your child to keep copies neat and tidy and to complete work to the best of their ability, using best handwriting.
4. As your child gets older, he/ she will work more independently, but be available for assistance with problems.
5. Try not to get irritated with your child. Frustration will only lead to conflict and have a negative effect.
6. If your child has persistent problems, let the teacher know through a quick chat or a note in the homework notebook.
7. If your child is unable to complete work for any reason, make sure you tell the teacher or send a note into school.
8. If you find the homework is taking longer than the recommended time, let the teacher know.

## Responsibilities

It is up to the individual class teacher and parents/guardians to ensure homework is completed to a satisfactory standard. Parents/guardians to notify the school of problems with homework.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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