### Homework Policy

Note: Due to the risks of cross-contamination, materials should not travel between school and home on a regular basis. For this reason, homework is currently not being given. This is being reviewed periodically. Parents are encouraged to engage their children in activities that will focus on their mental health and wellbeing during the challenging times associated with living through the Coronavirus pandemic.

Introduction

Homework refers to any work or activities assigned to students as an extension of classroom work.  
  
Homework can take many forms and includes reading, oral and written activities. Each type of activity has equal importance. Therefore oral work is just as important as written work.

Homework consolidates the learning that happens in school. It is important because it encourages and develops good study habits, independent learning, initiative and responsibility.  
  
It helps students to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and it prepares them for secondary school.   
  
It also promotes positive attitudes toward school because homework allows students to understand that learning can also take place outside of the classroom. Homework also provides a means by which parents can engage in and support the work of the class teacher and the school.  
   
**Role of the Teacher**  
Teachers are responsible for:

* Providing students with time to note the assignments in their homework journal
* Explaining how the assignment might be carried out
* Coordinating with the learning support teacher with regard to homework for those receiving support
* Correcting assignments or monitoring children’s checking of assignments
* Providing feedback to children and parents if necessary

**Role of the Student**   
Students are expected to:

* Write assignments clearly and neatly in their journal on a daily basis
* Show their journal to parents and have it signed
* Complete all assignments neatly and honestly
* Work independently and ask for help only when needed
* Read independently (or with a family member) on a daily basis

**Role of the Parent**

Parents are encouraged to:

* Plan a homework schedule and a place free from interruptions for the child
* Assist the child if necessary but not by doing the homework for the child
* Check that all homework has been completed, tick each completed task in the homework journal and sign the homework journal
* Encourage the student and praise them when they have completed assignments
* Encourage reading – either paired or independent.
* Check children’s oral homework with them such as learning multiplication tables or playing a math’s game with their child.
* Communicate with the teacher if the child encounters difficulty, has spent an undue amount of time at homework or cannot complete homework due to special circumstances, by writing a note in the child’s homework journal.

**Frequency and Duration of Homework**   
  
It is a matter of school policy that individual teachers decide on the amount of homework that they consider appropriate. However, the following guidelines apply.  
  
Infant Classes Time:    **Junior Infants** up to 10 / 15 minutes but rarely given in first term

**Senior Infants** up to 20 minutes

*Examples of content*:

Oral Homework  
Talk about the pictures, sentences and rhymes  
Urge children to use full sentences in response to questions (who, what, where, when, why)  
Reading. For example, blending practice, tricky words. Dolch words (senior infants).  
Short writing activities

Games to be played independently or with a parent

First and Second Classes                              Time:   **1st Class** up to 25 minutes  
            **2nd Class** up to 30 minutes  
  
*Examples of content*:

Tables, Spellings, Dolch words.

English Reading,

Gaeilge reading, writing and spelling  
Mathematics and English written work  
Project work

Games to be played independently or with a parent

Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes       Time:               **3rd class** up to 40 minutes

**4th class** up to 45 minutes

**5th class** up to 60 minutes

**6th class** up to 80 minutes

*Examples of content*:

Tables, Irish and English Spellings  
English Reading  
Written work in Mathematics, English and Irish  
Project work

Games to be played independently or with a parent

Ratification and Review

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| Date Created | October 2015 |
| Date of Review | September 2020 |
| Date for Next Review | September 2023 |