

**St. Joseph's National School,
Granagh,
Kilmallock,
Co. Limerick**

Roll No. 09927I

Homework Policy

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 develop a work ethic
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:
 - If homework has been neglected during the week
 - In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends
- 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 be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework or made a suitable effort or has presented untidy work. If children do not complete their homework in full and to a suitable standard regularly the class teacher may ask to speak to parents in order to address the concerns.

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 considerably 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 much time for homework?

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	0 - 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 15 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 25 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 35 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 45 minutes
Rang 5	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour

How can parents help?

You should set aside a time each day for homework taking into account other needs such as recreation and family circumstances.

As a parent, you have a really important role to play in:

- Encouraging your child's work
- Observing their work
- Ensuring that your child has a quiet environment to work in. The television and other distractions should be avoided during the time allocated to homework
- Making sure your child has all the necessary equipment e.g. pencils, eraser, sharpener etc.
- Being nearby in case of questions; but don't take over
- Acknowledging and respecting effort, honesty and enthusiasm. By doing this your children will progress and develop at their own pace, in a safe and relaxed environment
- Being consistent. Discuss, monitor, check and sign homework every night.

Your children will make mistakes. Encourage them to find and correct their own mistakes. Children must be able to accept that making mistakes is part of the learning process and it is important that they can go back and try a different method or approach.

How much help should parents give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
 - preventing interruptions or distractions, 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. In the case where children are having significant difficulty regularly, the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it's not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening
(homework sheet in the infant classes)

- The pupil's journal / homework sheet 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/sheet (additional pages available at the end of the journal)
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed
- Please check your child's journal/homework sheet for notes on a regular basis.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework and/ or journal every day
- 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
- Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. 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.

When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break before starting homework
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school

Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The school community of BoM, staff, pupils and parents play a key role in the formulation and implementation of the plan. Representatives of the Parents' Association have reviewed and approved this policy.

Monitoring & Review

This policy was ratified by the Board on Management on 05/12/18

This policy will be due for review in three years, that is, during the school year 2021-22. It may be revisited sooner if the need arises.

Signed: _____
Chairperson, Board of Management.