



## HOMEWORK POLICY

### A GUIDE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS.

The home and school play complementary roles in children's learning.

No where is this more evident than in the area of homework.

We hope that this **Homework Policy** will be of benefit to all concerned.

It includes policy and suggestions.

## HOMEWORK.

Work at home is regarded as being important for the following reasons:

1. It develops in the child a work habit which is useful for later.
2. It reinforces work already done in school.
3. It gives Parents/Guardians an opportunity to become involved in their child's education.

Homework should **NOT**:

1. Be a cause of anxiety to a child.
2. Be a cause of aggravation or friction between a parent and child at home.
3. Take up too much time, considering that the child has already spent 4 to 5 hours in school.

**How Parents/Guardians can help:**

A child needs help to be able to set about and complete his/her homework.

Time, space and support are key elements in helping the child.

- (a) Set aside a quiet regular time.
- (b) The child should be sitting comfortably at a table.

- (c) Encourage your child to keep books and copies clean and tidy.
- (d) Parental involvement is essential in the Infant Classes.  
In First and Second Class the school would encourage the child to work more independently.
- (e) 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.
- (f) If, while working with your child, you feel yourself becoming impatient just **STOP**  
**Avoid getting cross as this will only have a negative effect.**
- (g) If your child is persistently having problems with homework, make an appointment to see the Teacher and discuss the difficulty.
- (h) If for any reason the homework cannot be done, write a note to the Teacher via the homework copy.
- (i) Parents/Guardians need to sign the homework copy when homework has been completed to the best of the child's ability.

**The School recommends:**

**15- 20 minutes to be spent in Junior/Senior Infants on homework.**

**20 - 30 minutes to be spent in First/Second class on homework.**

**Then STOP.**

**Sign and Time your child's Homework each night.**

## **JUNIOR AND SENIOR INFANTS.**

Homework in Junior Infants will to a large extent be informal.

The main emphasis will be on **oral language, talking to and listening** to your child.

**Homework in Junior Infants is given out (for the week) on a Tuesday and is returned to the school on Friday.**

The following activities will be given for homework:

**Read a story - Talk about it.**

**Phonics** - revising initial sounds

**Draw a picture** - Tell me about it.

**Reading and saying poems & rhymes** - What one did you like? Why?

Maths worksheet based on current class topic

These activities offer you a great opportunity to encourage your child to express him/herself orally.

In this way you can **increase and improve their vocabulary.**

We would recommend that you spend 10/15 minutes completing the task.

It may also be useful to think about forming a "Jigsaw Pool" with 4 or 5 other Parents/Guardians and agree to share jigsaws/ educational toys.

Other experiences that can be used to develop language are:

- \* Collecting materials for sending in for the Nature Table/Colour Table.
- \* Looking through Catalogues - cutting out pictures.
- \* Discussing:   THE DAY.                   THE TIME OF DAY.  
                  THE MONTH               THE SEASON  
                  BIRTHDAYS.

Construction Play: USING LEGO, DUPLO BLOCKS etc.

Could you spare a few minutes to let your child help you when you are:

- \* In the Supermarket.
- \* Unpacking the shopping.
- \* Baking.
- \* Sorting the cutlery drawer.
- \* Sorting socks into pairs.
- \* Pegging washing on the line.
- \* Setting the table.

As your child progresses through Junior Infants he/she will be preparing to read. As an aid to word recognition he/she will be using Flash Cards, Word Boxes, Word lists and Library/ Reading Books.

When your child starts on a reading book you should read with him/her every day **whether reading has been marked or not.**

In **Senior Infants** there will still be a great emphasis on **talking to and listening to your child.**

Formal reading will get underway and you will be asked to attend a meeting on **Lift Off** to literacy which is our programme for reading in S. Infants.

Your child will get a book 4 nights a week and you will be responsible for hearing them read and ensuring the book returns in the next day.

**Books lost will cost €15 to replace.**

Reading should be done every day whether it has been marked or not.

The children are encouraged to bring home Library Books.

Time should be spent reading and talking about these books.

**It is recommended that senior Infants should spend 10 - 15 minutes at homework.**

## **FIRST CLASS.**

**Homework should take between 20/30 minutes.**

No **formal** homework is given at weekends.

Children, however, are encouraged at the weekend to read a Library Book chosen from the school or classroom library.

In First Class children get Homework Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Homework may include.....

English: Spellings, Reading

Maths: Tables and sums

Writing : sentence or little story

Oral homework in the form of learning songs poems etc

Children may take home text books - **please ensure that they are returned next day.**

Children also take home a book from the **Library** and Teacher keeps a record of same.

Please help your child to respect this and encourage them to become responsible for its return the next day or by its due day

**Paired Reading** is formally explained to Parents/Guardians at a Meeting when their child reaches 1st Class.

We encourage all Parents/Guardians to do 5 - 10 minutes Paired Reading with their child each night.

**Studies have proved that children with whom Paired Reading is done regularly have higher reading age than other children of the same age.**

Homework must be neatly presented.

We ask that you **sign and time** the homework

**Recommended time spent 20/30 minutes.**

## **SECOND CLASS.**

**Homework should take between 20/30 minutes.**

No **formal** homework to be given at weekends. Children, however, are encouraged at the weekend to read a Library Book chosen from the school or classroom library.

From Monday to Thursday, children are expected to **read every night** using the class readers for formal reading and using the **paired reading** method with the library books.

Homework in Maths, tables, English, (spellings and reading and written work) will be given. Religion may also be included.

**Oral homework will form an important part** of the child's homework.

Written homework will be completed in the child's homework copy and workbook.

Homework will take into account the ability and stage of development of each child.

There will be collaboration and co-operation between the classes, while making due allowance for the autonomy of each class.

**Maths will include** a worksheet based on work recently covered in class.

Written homework in **English may include** the following suggestions:

- (a) Putting words into sentences.
- (b) Providing a suitable ending for a sentence e.g. I am going .....
- (c) Write 5 sentences less/more on a particular subject.
- (d) Description e.g. - describe a computer, elephant, person or place.

- (e) Jumbled sentences. Correct / Sequence them.
- (f) Provide the answer. Children write the question.
- (g) Put in suitable adjectives/verbs in the sentences e.g.
  - \* The ----- girl is in the shop.
  - \* The girl is ----- in her bed.
- (h) Dictionary work.

## **HOMEWORK POLICY FOR THE LANGUAGE CLASS.**

Homework for the children in the two Language Classes is given by the Teacher and Speech Therapist on an individual basis and in accordance with the particular needs of the child. Speech Therapy Homework always takes precedence.

THIS POLICY WAS REVIEWED, RATIFIED AND SIGNED BY BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



CHAIRPERSON \_\_\_\_\_

DATE JUNE 2014

