

Homework Policy St. Marys N.S., Knockbridge

Introduction & Rationale:

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries and liaison with teachers. This policy attempts to strengthen home school links through streamlining the processes involved.

The need to redraft and amend the homework policy can be attributed to the following:

- Reinforcing the learning experienced by the child during the school day
- Ensuring clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework
- Further strengthening of home-school links

Aims and Objectives:

The primary objectives of the policy are:

- To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work
- To enable the children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence
- To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable
- To foster self-discipline and study skills
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes
- To further develop links between home and school

Time Allocations:

The following are the recommended time allocations for homework per class:

- Junior Infants 0-15 minutes
- Senior Infants 0-20 minutes
- First Class 0-25 minutes
- Second Class 0-30 minutes
- Third Class 0-35 minutes
- Fourth Class 0-40 minutes
- Fifth Class 0-50 minutes
- Sixth Class 0-60 minutes

Guidelines:

- Parents should exercise discretion in relation to the times allocated. If you feel that your child has worked to the best of their ability within the time given and they do not have it completed please sign and add a note in the homework diary.
- Homework is generally based on class-related work or work already covered in class. It should contain a balance between reading, learning and writing. Time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Spelling and the learning of tables are especially important.
- Reading is routinely given as homework and should be accorded priority consideration.
- In general all school homework will encompass a wide spectrum of learning experiences such as reading, writing, tables, spelling, learning “by heart”, drawing, collecting information and colouring.
- The assigned homework is explained to the children in advance.
- Homework is differentiated for students with learning difficulties or differences.
- Homework is given from Mondays to Thursdays
- The SET will occasionally give homework to their allocated pupils. This homework has been specially differentiated for each child and should be given priority.
- Provision of homework to children who are absent due to a medical condition will be facilitated.
- Provision of homework to children who are absent during term time due to travelling on holidays will not be facilitated.
- If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher. If homework cannot be completed on a particular night, parents are asked to forward a written note.

- Teachers check homework on a daily basis. Some homework may be self-correcting. Parents are advised to supervise assist, correct and check homework nightly. Maths homework requires supervision, checking and correction. Parental assistance is needed during homework periods.
- All children from 1st to 6th class have a homework diary which parents are required to sign every night. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent. Parent/guardian should still check homework and sign diary if homework is being done in after-school care or alternative childcare setting.
- Homework passes or a reduction in the amount of homework may be given at the teacher's or the principal's discretion. Homework in June may encompass a different style of homework with less written work included, and no homework will be given during the last 2 weeks of term 3.

Procedures for Parents:

- Provide suitable comfortable facilities.
- Remove distractions-younger siblings, TVs and all digital distractions.
- Once the pupil has had an initial break, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible after school.
- Parents should not do homework for children but rather help their child overcome difficulties through explanation.
- Send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises. This can be done through the homework diary.
- Check and sign homework diary every night.
- Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time. This can be done by recording the time taken in the homework diaries.
- Discourage morning homework or the completion of homework in cars, buses etc
- Parents should have a stock of rulers, pencils, rubbers, table- books etc. available should the need arise
- Even if homework is completed in a child care setting parents are encouraged to check their child's homework and to sign their child's homework diary each night.

Evaluation

- In-class corrections
- Checking homework diaries
- Parent-teacher meetings
- Teacher- designed tests & observation
- Pupil profiling
- Feedback from parents and pupils

Communication, Monitoring and Review

This policy will be communicated to staff and the school community as appropriate and will be subjected to regular review, initially after one year and then every three years, unless there is a compelling reason to review it earlier.

Ratified by the Board of Management 26th March 2019

Signed: ***Fr. Paddy Rushe***
Rev. Fr. Paddy Rushe
 Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: ***Brian McDonnell***
Mr. Brian McDonnell
 Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 26th March 2019

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