

# **Homework Policy**

## **Introductory Statement:**

This policy was formulated on a gradual basis initially during the school year 2001/2002. This policy was reviewed during 2008 and circulated to all parents. It was again reviewed in 2012 and in 2017 to highlight the significance we place on oral language homework. The results of questionnaires administered (in relation to children's emotional and physical well-being) to children, parents and teachers have informed changes to this policy.

This policy is intended to maximise the benefit to children of time spent on homework. The policy details reasons for homework, recommendations on time to be spent on homework, advice on conditions that should be available to the child for doing homework and what to do if problems arise.

## **Rationale:**

To ensure whole-school approach was evident.

To ensure effective, consistent communication exists between home and school in relation to homework.

## **Relationship to Characteristic Spirit of the School:**

Our school cherishes all pupils equally and constantly strives to improve the quality of education through an inclusive, unified approach.

## **Why homework is given:**

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To allow the children an opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in school.
- To provide a link between teacher, child and parent.
- Allows parents an opportunity to become actively involved in the children's work
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- It provides pupils an opportunity for independent learning.

## **Aims of Whole School Policy:**

1. Consistency.
2. To ensure that homework is purposeful and achievable.
3. To establish guidelines in relation to the amount of time to be spent completing homework.
4. To inform parents with regard to our school policy on homework.

## Homework Policy

5. To open up the lines of communication with regard to homework in order that parents have a reference point by which they can evaluate their child's progress.

### **Guidelines:**

- No written homework for any child at weekends unless a child has not done his/her homework the previous night.
- Target times are approximate – there is no such thing as an average child. If a parent thinks his/her child is spending too much/too little time at homework they should talk to the class teacher.
- 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.
- In the event of homework not being done a note from a parent/guardian in the child's homework journal explaining that the homework is not done will be acceptable. Parents are expected to be responsible in writing such a note in that they will observe that this is not happening too frequently.
- Following our School Improvement Plan all children will have oral homework one night per week. This will be "Talk on Thursday". It is important to note that this oral homework is designed to provide further opportunities for children and parents to spend time together.
- Occasionally children are rewarded with reduced homework or homework passes

## Homework Policy

### Target Time



<b>Junior Infants</b>	Sounds Words (term 3)	Reading from after Christmas onwards.				10 mins.
<b>Senior Infants</b>	Reading	Maths or writing				15 mins.
<b>First Class</b>	Maths or Writing		English Reading	Tables (4 Facts)	Spellings ( 3 spellings Mon – Weds & 1 on Thurs)	20 mins.
<b>Second Class</b>	Maths and writing		English Reading	Tables (4 facts)	Spellings ( 3 spellings Mon – Weds & 1 on Thurs)	30 mins.
<b>Third Class</b>	Maths	Irish Reading	Reading in S.E.S.E./ English reading	Tables <b>and</b> Spellings /Learning off	Now and again English/SESE writing	30 mins.
<b>Fourth Class</b>	Maths	Irish Reading	Reading in S.E.S.E./ English reading	Tables <b>and</b> Spellings /Learning off	Now and again English/S.E.S.E. writing	30 mins.
<b>Fifth Class</b>	1 piece of writing and maths	Irish Reading / independent reading of novels	Reading in English or another subject such as S.E.S.E. etc.,	Spellings	Tables/Learning poetry, prayers etc.,	30-40 mins.
<b>Sixth Class</b>	1 piece of writing and maths	Irish Reading / independent reading of novels	Reading in English or another subject such as S.E.S.E.etc.	Spellings	Tables/Learning poetry, prayers etc.,	30-40 mins.

### **Sanctions for undone homework:**

1. Repeat undone homework the following night as well as regular homework. Parents will be informed of this in writing in the homework journals.

2. If this occurs more than 3 times in a month parents, teacher and child will meet to discuss reasons.

## **Roles and Responsibilities:**

### **Parents/Guardians responsibilities:**

- Homework journals are very important. Parents should check them daily and initial when homework is done.
- To provide a space and time for their child to do their homework
- In primary school parents or older (greater than primary school) brothers/sisters should listen to child reading aloud and then initial reading page.
- Spellings/ tables form a very important part of your child's learning and we ask that you spend time ensuring this work is completed
- Oral homework assigned on Thursdays is just as important as written work and affords both child/parent an opportunity to spend time discussing a particular topic. Please ensure that you spend this valuable time engaging with your child
- Senior Classes will learn spellings each week.
- Parents should encourage, observe and review completed work. They should not do the work at any time for the child.
- Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time ( as specified in this policy)
- If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to arrange to meet with the class teacher.
- Parents should provide quiet appropriate conditions for homework.
- Parents should communicate with teachers when child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.

### **Teachers' Responsibilities:**

1. Teachers prepare homework with children and try to ensure that it is within the child's capability.
2. Teachers will strive to ensure that homework is part of the learning programme.
3. Teachers will try to vary homework whilst keeping cognisance of different levels of ability.
4. Teachers will correct homework and give feedback to children.
5. Children themselves under the direction of the teacher may sometimes check homework. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

6. Homework is not assigned when children are absent from school to travel on family holidays

### **Children's Responsibilities:**

1. Children must look after their homework diaries and write down homework from First Class onwards. This can be changed at the discretion of the teacher as individual difficulties or variations may apply.
2. Children should learn and take personal responsibility for his/her homework and this will be fostered throughout the school.
3. Children have a responsibility to ask for help when they need it.
4. Children must try to be honest about their ability and reasons for not doing homework.
5. Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

### **Date for Implementation:**

This policy was ratified and implemented in 2002, 2008, 2017.

### **Date Reviewed:**

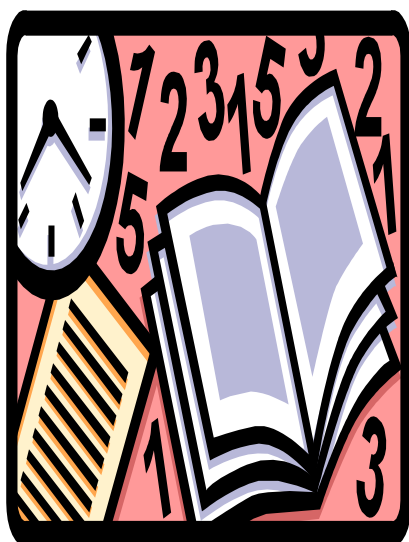
The policy was reviewed 2008,2012, 2017.

### **Date to be reviewed:**

2019

### **Criteria for Success:**

- Children completing homework.
- Whole school approach being followed.
- Feedback from parents, children and teachers.

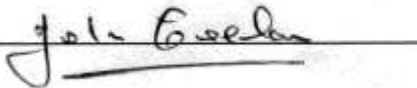


*Each family situation is different. Ideally homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh. However some children need a break before beginning homework. The television or other devices should not be on while homework is being done.*

## Homework Policy

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

Ratified by B.O.M. 2002, 2010 and 2017

Signed :   
Fr Geelan

In accordance with our School Improvement Plan , children will be given oral homework regularly eg. conducting interviews, oral reports, discussions based on learning in school and debating.