



## Homework Policy

### **Introductory Statement**

This policy was drawn up in consultation with the staff, parents and Board of Management of St. John the Apostle, Knocknacarra NS.

### **Rationale**

This policy was drawn up in order to ensure that through Homework, children practice and consolidate the work done at school. Homework allows parents to help and support their child's learning. It and encourages independent work.

### **Aims**

By developing this policy this school aims to

- To encourage children to develop independence in their learning
- To consolidate work being done at school
- To involve parents in supporting their child's learning at home
- To develop good study habits for lifelong learning

### **Guidelines, Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Guidelines for Teachers:**

- Homework is an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to consolidate work done
- When assigning Homework, ensure that it is well prepared and explained
- Homework must be consistent – a small amount and given in such a way as to form a pattern for the children so that they are more likely to remember it
- Teachers will use classroom systems to check that homework is being done consistently – where inconsistencies/difficulties arise, teachers will consult with parents to ascertain reasons and decide on how best to support improvement
- Class Teachers assign homework. On occasion, Support Teachers may assign homework for children in Learning Support groups instead of the Class Teacher. Children should not be assigned double homework. Home support activities will be agreed with parents when drawing up an Individual Learning Plan/Programme.

#### **Guidelines for Parents:**

Parents are encouraged to:

- Establish a set routine and time for the child to do his/her homework, in a quiet place free from distractions
- Supervise children's homework and check and sign it on completion
- Help and encourage the child but not to do the homework for him/her
- Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances
- Homework should to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child

- Parents are asked to check that homework assigned has been completed and to sign their child's homework notebook, reading log or homework assignment

### **Guidelines for Children**

- Children are responsible for recording the assigned homework or in the case of younger children bringing their Homework Book to and from school.
- All children are encouraged to take pride in their Homework in terms of its content and presentation
- Time must be given to reading and oral activities as well as written activities each evening

### **Principal**

The principal plays a role

- in overseeing consistencies in terms of homework across the whole school
- Ensuring a shared understanding of this homework policy
- From time to time children at exempt from homework at whole school level, this may arise following a significant special school occasion or during periods of hot weather, where children would benefit from the enjoyment of the outdoors

**The following policy summary is included in all Welcome Booklets, on our website's Welcome Page and in the centre pages of our Homework Notebook**

#### **Homework**

Homework is an important aspect of your child's learning. It helps to consolidate the work done at school and encourages independent work. It also allows parents to help and support their child's learning. Parents are asked to check that homework assigned has been done and to sign the homework notebook.

When a child is experiencing difficulty regularly with homework, it is a good idea to inform the teacher.

The following is a suggested guide as to how much time your child should spend on homework.

**Junior Infants: 12-15 minutes**

**Senior Infants: 15-20 minutes**

**First Class: 20-30 minutes**

**Second Class: 30 minutes**

**Third Class: 30-40 minutes**

**Fourth Class: 40-45 minutes**

**Fifth and Sixth Class: 45-60 minutes**

There are many other activities which you can do with your child to support him/her – read a book together, encourage the use of crayons/paints for creative responses, talk about events/news, count objects and find opportunities to use maths in everyday life.

#### **Success Criteria**

Identify some practical indicators of the success of the policy

- o Positive feedback from teachers, parents, pupils in relation to children's success with homework
- o Evidence of regular and consistently completed homework assignments

#### **Timetable for Review**

This policy will be reviewed in June 2011

#### **Ratification & Communication**

*This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of St. John the Apostle, Knocknacarra NS on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 and subsequently communicated to the school community via the school's website*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Fr. Tadhg Quinn, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_