



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. It allows parents to help and support their child's learning. It 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
- To ensure consistency and predictability with regard to homework at each class level
- To allow for differentiation in line with pupil's abilities

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 predictable 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 and to correct homework – 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 will not be assigned double homework.
- Home support activities will be agreed with parents when drawing up Individual Education Plans or Individual Learning Programmes for children with specified education needs .
- A sample nightly homework grid for each class level is attached as an appendices to this policy
- 'Catch up' work is not assigned for homework but will be allocated to Golden Time on a Friday, where children did not complete tasks due to deliberate lack of attention

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
- Foster independence; 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 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
- Inform the teacher if homework is causing stress or upset for the child
- Use the 'Talk about' homework as an opportunity to discuss aspects of the Social and Emotional programmes in school such as *Fun Friends*, *Friends for Life* and *Mind Up*

Guidelines for Children

- Children are responsible for recording the assigned homework or in the case of younger children bringing their Homework pack to and from school.
- All children are encouraged to take pride in their Homework in terms of its content and presentation; correct letter formation,
- Time must be given to reading and oral activities in both English and Irish each night as well as written activities each evening
- 'Talk about' homework links with social and emotional support programmes in school

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 are exempt from homework
 - a. When they get an individual principal's 'Homework Pass'
 - b. When the principal announces a 'No Homework' night for the whole school; following a significant special school occasion, during periods of hot weather to encourage outdoor play
 - c. Child's birthday - with a day in May given to summer birthdays
 - d. Subject passes are awarded to children for participating in school choir

Where children are involved in Sporting Events, homework will be assigned before they leave for the event, to ensure consistency with their academic work.

The following policy summary is included in all Welcome Booklets, on our website 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 maximum 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 at each class level - ideas and suggestions are provided on various links on our school website and also at Parent Teacher Meetings and End of Year Reports

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
- o Children's confidence and independence with regard to Homework

Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed in September 2021

Ratification & Communication

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of St. John the Apostle, Knocknacarra NS on October 23rd 2018 and subsequently communicated to the school community via the school's website

Signed: _____

Frank Laffey , Chairperson
Board of Management

Date: _____