

S.N. Fhionnghlaise
Homework Policy

1) Why give homework

- To re-enforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic .
- Homework is meant to be achieved by a child ie it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more no less.

2) How often is Homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday s, Thursdays but not on Fridays.
- There are two exceptions:
 - If homework has been neglected during the week.
 - In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or Principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
- Please note extra homework may be sometimes given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

3) What is the content or homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be 'learned of by heart', drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finished work is done well.

4) How much time for homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants: 0-10 minutes

Senior Infants: up to 20 minutes

Rang 1: up to 30 minutes

Rang 2 up to 40 minutes

Rang 3: up to 50 minutes

Rang 4: up to 1 hour

Rang 5: up to 1 hour 15 minutes

Rang 6: up to 1 hour 30 minutes

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework on the weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may be sometimes required to work independently on projects at weekends.

5) How much help should parents give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework.
 - To prevent interruption or distractions, like T.V. or other children.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanations or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parents should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parents and child. If it's not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.

6) How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening.
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages at the back of the journal)
- Please check that your child's records its homework neatly in the correct page and ticks