



Homework Policy

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HOMWORK POLICY

The Principal and teaching staff believe that it is worthwhile to develop and consolidate a Homework Policy which encourages wherever possible, the involvement of children (and parents) in worthwhile and purposeful tasks which **support the work of the classroom.**

The school has agreed that the main objective of homework should be to encourage pupils:

1. to develop further good habits and independent study skills
2. to develop further a self-disciplined and self-motivating attitude to study
3. to practise and reinforce skills learned in the classroom
4. to consolidate and support work begun with the teacher in class
5. to involve parents in children's work (e.g. parents can keep in touch with the day to day class activities by taking an interest in monitoring homework assignments or by providing further opportunities to reinforce children's' learning etc.).

In formulating these objectives, the Principal and staff are aiming to set homework which for the most part will be a stimulating activity, deepening understanding, encouraging good work attitudes, helping to develop independent learning skills and giving some measure of pleasure to the child. In some cases, the homework assignments will have to be by nature repetitive and routine e.g. learning of tables, spellings, preparation and revision for tests and examinations, etc.

The professional judgement of the class teacher will be important however when children with the ability to complete work in class fail to do so for whatever reason. These children may have to compensate for time wasting by completing class work at home.

At Primary School level the teachers will gauge carefully the demands they make upon their pupils and ensure that what is expected in amount and difficulty of homework is reasonable and does not intrude unrealistically into their private lives.

WHAT THE SCHOOL WILL EXPECT FROM THE PUPILS IN THEIR HOMEWORK

1. The child will make an honest attempt to complete the homework and in the case of written assignments strive to present it in a manner/format acceptable for the age and ability of the child.
2. The child will treat learning homework, preparation of reading homework, revision for tests, etc. with the same diligence as written assignments.
3. The child may seek the parents help with homework but cannot expect the parent to do the homework for him/her.
4. If the child cannot understand the homework task and how to complete it, he/she should make this known to the teacher and should if necessary get his/her parents to notify the teacher by signing and endorsing the attempt at the homework to this effect.
5. The child should set aside in co-operation with parents a regular time each day to complete homework and develop a routine for home study.

WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM THE TEACHER

1. Teachers will set homework within the framework of the school's policy.
2. The homework will be a purposeful activity linked to current class work or revision of work.
3. The homework task will be clearly explained.
4. The homework set will take into consideration that the children have the skills to undertake the tasks given.
5. The homework set can be completed in a reasonable time without undue stress and thus whenever possible the task matches the child's ability.
6. The homework completed will be commented upon/marked.
7. In infant classes due to the age and maturity of the pupils, parents, when necessary, will be made aware of the role they should be playing (e.g. practical number activities, how many spellings to learn each night, etc.).
8. Pupils may use I.T. to develop research and writing skills.

WHAT THE SCHOOL EXPECTS FROM PARENTS

1. Parents should be interested to ensure that:
 - a) the child makes an honest attempt to complete homework
 - b) the conditions under which the homework is completed are suitable
 - c) the difficulties (if any) encountered by the child are not solved instantly by the parent i.e. do his/her homework.
2. Parents are expected to sign/initial written homework to indicate that their child has made an honest attempt to complete the work.
3. If there is concern about the child not understanding the homework then inform the teacher so that remedial action can be initiated.
4. Realise that homework varies from as little as 10 minutes in P1 to a maximum of 60 minutes in P7. Obviously as the child moves up the school and approaches transfer to secondary education a longer time may be required to complete assignments.
5. Realise that preparation of reading, learning of spellings, tables, revision for tests and examinations, etc. are homework activities of equal importance to written assignments.
6. Be aware that the school pattern for homework is generally Monday to Thursday. Weekend homework is generally non-written. Senior pupils in P6 & P7 will be expected to have developed a mature application and attitude to home study in anticipation of their transfer to local secondary schools, therefore homework may also include 'research' activities. Parents can be most helpful in such situations by helping pupils look for books, research internet, computer programmes, etc. at home or in the library which are linked to work in the classroom.
7. Realise that the school welcomes parents' help and co-operation with all work which is taken home and that the school acknowledges the importance to its pupils' academic success, particularly in language skills, on the back-up given by our parents. Learning, despite all the modern theories, definitions and research projects, is a change in behaviour as a result of experience. The learning experience is not limited to the school day and you as parents have the opportunity to share the school's learning experiences through the child's homework. You can make a difference to the child's attainment and attitude by ensuring that on a regular and routine basis you monitor and encourage home study.

The following information should be used as general guidelines:

Primary 1	Reading Activity (Mon-Thurs) 15 mins Literacy/Numeracy Activity (Mon-Wed)
Primary 2	Reading Activity (Mon-Thurs) 20 mins Literacy/Numeracy Activity (Mon-Wed) 3 Spellings each night after Christmas (Mon-Thurs) Tables (Mon-Thurs)
Primary 3	Reading Activity (Mon-Thurs) 30 mins Literacy/Numeracy Activity (Mon-Wed) Spellings (Mon-Wed) Revision each Thursday Tables (Mon-Wed) – Revision each Thursday
Primary 4	Reading (Mon-Thurs) 35 mins Literacy/Numeracy Activity (Mon-Wed) Spellings (Mon-Wed) – Revision each Thursday Tables (Mon-Wed) – Revision each Thursday
Primary 5	Reading (Mon-Thurs) 40 mins Literacy/Numeracy Activity (Mon-Wed) Spellings (Mon-Wed) – Revision each Thursday Tables (Mon-Wed) – Revision each Thursday
Primary 6	Reading (Mon-Thurs) 50 mins Literacy/Numeracy Activity (Mon-Wed) Spellings (Mon-Wed) – Revision each Thursday Tables (Mon-Wed) – Revision each Thursday
Primary 7	Reading (Mon-Thurs) 60 mins Literacy/Numeracy Activity (Mon-Thurs) Spellings (Mon-Wed) – Revision each Thursday Tables (Mon-Wed) – Revision each Thursday Term 1 (Literacy and Numeracy Mon-Fri) Term 2&3 (Project Work and All Subjects Mon-Thurs)