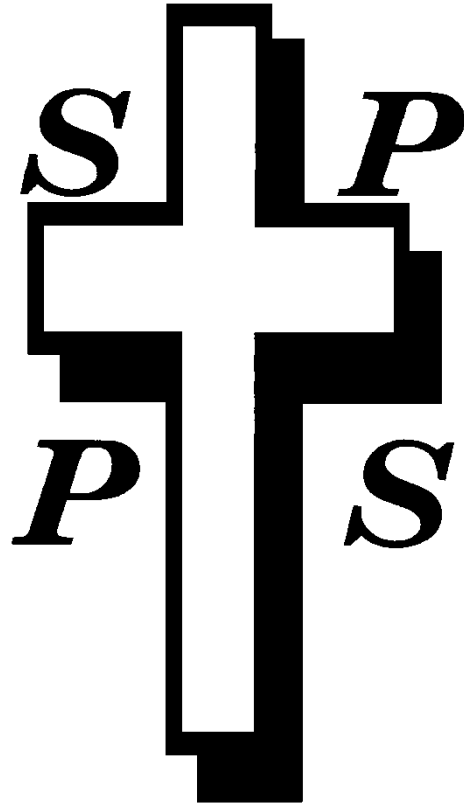


St Patrick's PS



Homework Policy

We believe that homework is an important learning link between home and school and that effective homework helps develop independent learning skills and consolidates work which is being carried out in school.

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- Use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Extend the learning experiences beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge, especially in Numeracy and Literacy.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. Reading and spelling is always an essential element of every child's homework. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider: -

The nature and type of homework changes as a pupil gets older.

Amount of homework may increase as a pupil gets older.

Homework should be set at an appropriate level; it should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.

Homework should be set regularly.

If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the school.

Frequency and duration will depend on the age and ability of the child.

The following are guidelines for the duration of written homework activities.

Years 1	10 minutes per day
Years 2 and 3	15 minutes per day
Years 4 and 5	30 minutes per day
Years 6 and 7	60 minutes per day

Though mostly applying to the older children, a maximum of 1 hour should be spent on homework. If parents are satisfied that the child has tried his/her best, they should allow the children to stop. (The parent should then sign the HW books to let the teacher know if longer is taken)

Spelling, spelling activities, maths facts and reading are included in this hour and although oral, should be considered an integral part of homework.

Homework Tasks

Listed below are a number of example tasks and activities that might be given as homework. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is open to constant change, although many of these tasks and activities will be used on a regular basis. Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development.

Year One

These may include:

- Reading
- Counting up and down
- Reciting nursery and counting rhymes
- Identification of shapes in the environment
- Sound and rhyme of the week

Homework in Year One will only begin when the children have settled in

Year Two

These may include:

- Reading
- Key word recognition
- Literacy activities
- Numeracy activities
- Real life numeracy related problems

Year Three and Four

These may include:

- Introduction to Paired Reading
- Reading
- Spellings and Spelling activities
- Literacy activities
- Numeracy activities
- Learning Times Tables
- Learning number facts and number bonds
- Practising calculation strategies learned in class

Year Five, Six and Seven

They may include:

- Reading
- Paired Reading
- Spellings and Spelling activities
- Comprehension activities
- Researching topics
- Learning Times Tables
- Learning various mathematical facts

- Practising calculation strategies learned in class

Role of the Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation of homework tasks to parents when necessary and give guidance of how they might assist their child. This may be done by a note/Seesaw message with the work or at parents' meeting.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the Year Group.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and where appropriate, links directly to the work being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks.
- To mark homework and give feedback to pupils when necessary.

Role of Parents/Carers

- To sign their child's homework diary on a daily basis
- To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning.
- To write a note to the teacher explaining any difficulty or delay

Role of Child

- To ensure they have all they need to complete homework
- To make sure they understand what they have to do
- To try their best in all homework activities
- To hand in their homework each morning
- To listen to any feedback the teacher gives them

General

We are very keen for parents to support and help their children with homework.

We take the view that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved as long as it remains the child's work.

However, there are times when we will want to see what children can do on their own. It is particularly important, as they get older, for children to become increasingly independent in their learning. If a parent is unsure about what their role should be, they should discuss it with their child's teacher.

It is agreed that:

- Homework should be marked and returned to the children promptly. Feedback may be given to individual pupils, or to groups of pupils.
- If a child is absent for a length of time e.g. with a broken leg, the teacher and the parent will agree what should be done, how it should be marked (the onus being on the parent to mark the work) and what sort of help needs to be given. Homework will not be given for family holidays during term time.
- Children may be required to complete missing/incomplete or unsatisfactory homework tasks in school at Breaktime. Some teachers use homework passes as praise or motivation for children.
- Parents who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's class teacher.

Monitoring & Evaluation

St Patrick's will update this policy and the procedures following any further guidance / legislation and review it biennially.

Ongoing evaluation will ensure the effectiveness of the policy.