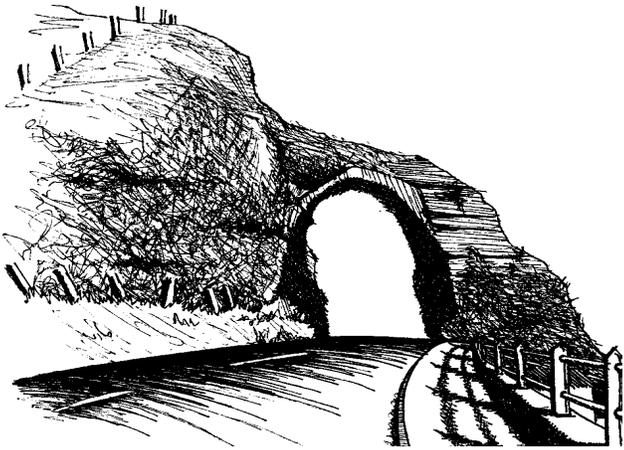


St. Patrick's Primary School Glenariff



Homework Policy 2018

‘Learning at school affects and is affected by learning at home.’

At St. Patrick’s we see homework as that part of the learning programme where parents can be directly involved with their children and we value parental interest as a motivating influence on children’s learning.

The Purpose of Homework

- To encourage pupils to develop the skills needed for independent learning.
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom.
- To enable parents to be actively involved in their children’s learning - providing encouragement and fostering positive attitudes towards school work.
- To develop an effective partnership between school and parents.

The Role of the Parent

- To provide a suitable quiet place to work.
- To talk about the homework and the importance of carrying out homework tasks.
- To help the child develop time management skills.
- To give praise for the successful completion of the work
- To sign the completed work or diaries if requested by the class teacher.
- To check homework is completed to a satisfactory standard each night.
- To inform the teacher of any problems or difficulties the child is presenting in relation to the homework that could not be resolved at home.
- When books are at home, parents should ensure that books are properly looked after and that none are lost or damaged.

Time

The following may be used as a guideline:

- P1 & P2 - 10 minutes reading, 10 minutes for other homework activities.
- P3 - 15 minutes reading, 10 minutes for other homework activities.
- P4 & P5 - 30 minutes
- P6 & P7 - 40 minutes

- Pupils from P1-P7 will be given homework each weekday night (Mon-Thurs).
- The length of time spent should not be excessive as the children have worked hard at school all day.
- Teachers will try to ensure that both the type and quality of homework are suited to each child’s ability.
- As homework takes a range of formats the time taken to complete the tasks may vary.
- The staff agrees that formal homework will not be set at weekends or holidays. However, children should be encouraged to read for pleasure, listen to bedtime stories, explore the local environment, discuss their own experiences etc. at weekends.
- No homework will be set if holidays are taken outside the official school holidays.
- If homework tasks are taking too long to complete or if there are persistent difficulties when completing the homework, parents are asked to send a note to the class teacher.
- Teachers will inform parents if children are regularly failing to produce homework or if the standard of homework is unacceptable.

Feedback

Homework should be assessed as soon as possible after completion, while teachers should review homework each day, children can sometimes correct their own homework and should be helped to do so. This can also reduce the amount of teacher time taken up by ‘marking’ homework and provides for the development of self-assessment.

If children are absent due to illness we will not send homework home. We would assume the child was too ill to work.

It is not possible to give homework when parents take holidays in term time.

Sanctions

Pupils who consistently fail to complete or present satisfactory homework may be asked to do so during lunch/break time.

Types of homework

1. Reading

- Children at all levels need help to further their reading skills. Your young child should read aloud to you each evening, and when capable your child should engage in silent reading for pleasure.
- It is essential that children from P1 – P7 practice their reading skills each night, including the weekends where possible.
- Reading often requires adult supervision to support word attack skills, word pronunciation and comprehension.
- Reading homework may have a variety of formats:

Reading Books; Poems; Comprehension; Finding rhyming words; Word search, word building, crosswords; Cloze procedure; Character study; Reading between the lines; Book reviews; Bedtime stories; Library Books; Research on the Internet/Non-fiction books

2. Spelling

Spellings will take the form of High Frequency Words, spelling patterns, rhyming words, phonic knowledge etc. Children need an adult to help to learn their spellings, which are then assessed on a regular basis in school.

3. **Revision/consolidation of work done in the classroom** – recalling facts eg. Tales, religious education facts.
4. **Further practice/extension** – handwriting, mathematical processes, tin whistle practice etc.
5. **Finding out** through observation, interviewing adults, researching topics, questioning and recording responses, perusing text books, collecting items etc.
6. **Practical** – measuring, modelling and making.
7. **Practice of Physical Education skills** eg. throwing, catching, striking, bouncing, skipping

In conclusion we value homework as an important part of school life. It is a direct point of contact between parent/guardian and teacher – a contact we welcome.

Date: September 2018

Review Date: September 2020