



St. George's National School

HOMework POLICY

Introductory Statement

This policy was prepared initially by Elayne Browne (Principal) and staff and was last reviewed in May 2014. It is being reviewed as procedure and edited to address any new issues which have arisen since the last review.

School Ethos

The school, under the patronage of the Church of Ireland, will preserve and develop the religious character in accordance with the Church. It aims to serve the community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all.

Rationale

A policy on homework needs to be recorded and made available to teachers, parents and Board of Management members. It will be reviewed by the staff and redrafted according to the demands of the curriculum and pupil potentiality.

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 achievable by a child, i.e. 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 stretch 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, Wednesdays and 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 the principal, children are given a night free of homework as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.

- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework or presented untidy work and as a disciplinary measure.

3) **What is the content of 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. Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well. 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 by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Homework may be given by the Special Education Teacher. It is expected that this work will be completed within the time allowed and at times, as an alternative to some class homework.

4) **How much time should be spent on 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:

Junior Infants	0 - 10 minutes
Senior Infants	0- 15 minutes
Rang 1	20 minutes
Rang 2	20- 30 minutes
Rang 3	30- 40 minutes
Rang 4	30- 40 minutes
Rang 5	45 minutes
Rang 6	up to 45 minutes

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:

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 interruptions 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 this difficulty (with further explanation or examples) but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In certain cases, it may be advisable for the parent to contact the teacher concerned.

6) **How often should parents monitor homework?**

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.

Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal **every evening**, because children record homework in homework journal (ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal).

Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.

7) **How often do teachers monitor homework?**

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers/ multiple classes, it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week.
- Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

8) **When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?**

When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances

When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect

When your child is spending a significantly longer time than the guidelines set for his/her class. If the time spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time or if homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the

whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher. Parents are partners in this aspect of education.

9) **When should homework be done?**

Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh; however, some children need a break before starting homework.

Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Review and Ratification:

This policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management in October 2017 and will be reviewed again in 2019.

BOM: _____

Date: _____