

St. Patrick's SNS Homework Policy

The home and school play a complementary role in children's learning. Nowhere is this more evident than in the area of homework. We hope that this Homework Policy jointly formulated by parents and teachers and sanctioned by the Boards of Management will be of benefit to all concerned.

Purpose of Homework:

- It reinforces and consolidates work done in school
- It aims to create a link between work done in school and the home
- It enables the parents to get involved in their child's learning
- It establishes good study habits

Guidelines on doing homework:

- Find a quiet place, no T.V. or music
- Choose a time to suit child and parent – if possible the same time everyday to establish a routine
- Encourage the child to do his/her best
- Equal importance should be given to oral and written work
- Parents should ensure homework journal is completed and signed, if not completed, a note should be given to the class teacher
- Please ensure your child has all the relevant books, copies in his/her school bag
- Please contact the class teacher if your child is having constant difficulty with his/her homework

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday but not on Friday.

Sample guideline for each class:

The following are guidelines as to the amount of homework and time to be spent on it for each class. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day from beginning to end of school year. These are general guidelines only.

Maximum time spent to be spent on homework

30 minutes for 3rd class
40 minutes for 4th class
50 minutes for 5th class
60 minutes for 6th class

Content

English and / or Irish reading

English and / or Irish spelling

Tables

1 Maths written exercise

1 or 2 written exercise(s) depending on class level

Either project work or S.E.S.E (5th & 6th Class)

Differentiation

Work will be at the child's specific ability level

If a child attends learning support or resource, then both teachers will have discussed the amount of homework they both give to the child in question.

Homework Voucher

Each teacher is given physical homework vouchers which they present to the children when they have reached a certain stage on their star chart (DFL). Homework vouchers can be used against all written work, however children must still do their learning homework. Children must inform their class teacher/learning support teacher/maths teacher if they are using their voucher before they use it.

Parental Involvement

Parents will be consistently reminded in the school newsletter/school website/Parent Teacher meetings etc. about their role in their child's homework. Parents are encouraged to sign their child's journal at least once a week. (Some teachers may require signatures every night).

Incomplete Homework

1. Teachers sanction children if they have not completed all their homework. Teachers will make an exception to this rule if the child has a note with a valid explanation or if the child has a genuine reason and were unable to get a note.
2. Teachers keep record of children who regularly do not complete their homework.
3. If teachers have consistent incomplete homework from a particular student, they inform the principal who will discuss the matter with the child and will arrange a meeting with the parents/guardians if the teacher deems this necessary.

Ratification and Communication

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of St. Patrick's S.N.S.