



St. Nicholas' Primary School
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ST. NICHOLAS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY



Principal: Miss G Doherty

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HOMEWORK IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Introduction

By extending the child's learning from classroom to home, homework forges an important link between home and school and between teachers and parents.

In St. Nicholas' PS we believe that the children's education should be life enhancing and should foster in them a sense of self-confidence. Relating this to homework entails careful planning and great sensitivity on the part of the teacher to the demands they may be making on pupil's time, intellectual capabilities, home background and social conditions. Properly devised homework fosters initiative, develops independent learning skills and allows time for the practice, application and consolidation of what has been taught in school. It at all possible, homework should be enjoyable. It is more than an opportunity to practise skills already taught in school.

All children will have oral and/or written homework from Monday to Thursday each week.

AIMS

- ❖ To reinforce class work.
- ❖ To prepare pupils for new work in school.
- ❖ To extend the children's' knowledge and understanding.
- ❖ To give parents an opportunity to see what is happening in school and to take some share in their child's learning.
- ❖ To give pupils a chance to find out things for themselves.



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- ❖ To promote characteristics such as personal pride in achievement, initiative and self-confidence.
- ❖ To provide children with opportunity to develop some independence in their own work.
- ❖ To arouse interest and curiosity.
- ❖ To stimulate imagination.
- ❖ Revise previous learning.

EFFECTIVE USE OF HOMEWORK IS DEPENDENT ON FOUR FACTORS

- ❖ The environment of the child as the basis for learning.
- ❖ Tasks which foster and create interests.
- ❖ Homework activities which are enjoyable experiences.
- ❖ The values that parents place on homework.

PARENTAL ROLE

We the staff of St. Nicholas' Primary School acknowledge that parents play an important role in the education of their children.

As such we feel it is very important that they should be kept informed of their progress and abilities.

This is not always an undertaking, which is easily, fulfilled as many parents work and cannot visit the school on a regular basis.

Homework is seen therefore as one means of achieving this aim.

As a staff, we believe that homework is of great value.

We must be careful however not to over-emphasise homework to the extent that it becomes a chore and a source of great stress or tension within a family.



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In some cases it can be very time consuming, both for parents in assisting their children and for teachers in the marking of it.

Careful consideration must therefore be given not only to the amount of homework but also to the length of time reasonably expected for it to be completed.

The setting of homework calls for a great deal of sensitivity from the teacher as there are many variables in the ability of the child, home environment and so on.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

Homework is best done in an environment free from distraction so find a quiet place for the work to be done.

Please show an interest:

- ❖ Ask questions and talk about the work.
- ❖ Praise and encourage your child to do their best.
- ❖ Check that work is properly presented and completed.
- ❖ Try and avoid conflict with children over homework. This will be counter-productive, create stress and spoil the family atmosphere.
- ❖ Sign homework if requested by the teacher.
- ❖ Support and encouragement from parents help to boost children's confidence and their sense of achievement at "a job well done".
- ❖ The development of good study habits and the organisation and completion of homework to a high standard at an early age can help establish a pattern for future study.

Parents will be informed if children persistently do not produce their homework.



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It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children have at least made a substantial effort to complete homework.

If homework is not done we would appreciate a note explaining why.

Teachers should not be expected to spend valuable teaching time trying to establish why homework has not been completed.

We would encourage parents to emphasise to their children the important role homework plays in their education.

Guidelines for Teachers on Homework Policy

1. Try to differentiate as much as possible.
Give each child a task that he/she is likely to finish eg. to finish half a worksheet etc within a given time frame in order that the child feels some sense of achievement.
2. If a child consistently fails to complete work, consider whether this is because (a) the amount of work to be covered is too much or (b) whether the child is having difficulty settling down to work.
3. Use a homework diary and ensure that each child has taken down their homework carefully and accurately so that the child knows exactly what is expected of the (or more importantly) the parents.
4. When children consistently fail to produce their homework (on three separate occasions) contact will be made with a parent to discuss.
5. Set out your expectations and guidelines for homework during curriculum evening. If possible use the Homework WILF.



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