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Homework Policy

Guidelines for teachers and parents

Rationale:

Homework is given for the following reasons;

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between home and school
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- It is useful tool for assessing whether children really understand what has been taught in class and it assesses their presentation skills.
- It establishes a routine which is a good preparation for second level education.
- Homework is meant to be achievable for the child.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given Monday to Thursday. No homework is given on Friday.
- There are a number of exceptions;
 - o If homework has been neglected during the week.
 - o In senior classes, some project work or preparatory work is undertaken at weekends.
 - o In middle and senior classes some practical work may be undertaken.
- Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "Homework Off" as a reward for good behaviour or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- If a child has not done homework, not made a suitable effort or presented untidy work, it may be completed during morning breaktime or the following night.
- If a child persistently fails to do homework, parents will be informed by a note or phonecall and the work may have to be completed in school or at home.

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. However, 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 and finishing work started in class.
- Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart” do not form part of their real homework. Parents play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned thus ensuring this work is done well.

How much time for homework?

- The following are guidelines for time spent doing homework. Differences in ability will be taken into account. 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 only:

Junior and Senior Infants	10 minutes
Rang 1 & 2	20 – 30 minutes
Rang 3 & 4	45 minutes
Rang 5 & 6	Up to 1 hour

How much help should parents give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by;
 - o Providing them with suitable place and time to do their homework.
 - o Preventing interruptions or distractions (TV, phones, other children etc)
- 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 the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Parents should adhere to the methods used in school. This is particularly important in maths. Variety of methods may cause confusion.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check homework every night.
- In junior classes, parents should sign the child’s reading sheet and homework copy.
- In middle and senior classes, the homework journal should be signed if requested by the teacher.
- The homework journal is an important record of the child’s homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Only notes regarding homework between parents and teachers should be put in homework journals. All other notes which may contain private information should be given to the teacher directly.
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly and ticks each item of homework when completed.

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- Parent/Teacher meetings
- When child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When child cannot do homework because he/she has encountered some difficulty.

This policy was reviewed and ratified on _____.

This policy will be reviewed at the end of the 2021 school year or before that date should the need arise.

Signed:

Chairperson

Date