



# St. Mary's National School



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## Homework Policy

### Why is Homework given?

- To provide a link between teachers and parents / guardians
- To reinforce what the child learns in school
- To develop and encourage the habit of independent study
- To enable children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence

### When is homework given?

- Homework is normally given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
- The infant classes do not have written homework. Reading homework is introduced on a phased basis according to class needs in Term 1 and continues throughout the year.
- Special Education Teachers can liaise with classroom teachers to modify homework to best suit pupils' individual needs.

### What's for homework?

Homework usually contains a combination of learning, reading and written tasks – all of which are equally valuable.

- Reading (Irish reading from 2<sup>nd</sup> class as well)
- Spellings (Irish spellings from 2<sup>nd</sup> class as well)
- Tables
- Mental Maths
- English in Practice
- Irish verbs

### How long should homework take?

Different children complete the same homework in different lengths of time. What might take one child 10 minutes could easily take another child in that class 40 minutes. While the contents of homework are roughly similar for all classes, it is reasonable to expect older pupils to be able to concentrate for longer on homework activities. The following are general guidelines only.

- Infants: 10 – 20 minutes
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: 20 – 30 minutes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>: 30 – 40 minutes
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>: 40 – 60 minutes

*It is important to remember that it is the quality, not the quantity of homework that matters.*

### When should homework be done?

Each family situation and each child is different. Ideally, homework should be done soon after school while your child is still fresh. However, some children need a break before starting homework. Homework should not be left until morning before school.

## Guidelines for Completing Homework

For homework to be effective and beneficial, it requires the cooperation of parents, teachers and pupils.

Parents	Teachers	Pupils
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide your child with a suitable place and time to do their homework away from interruptions or distractions</li><li>• Check and sign a child's homework journal every evening</li><li>• Listen to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure pupils write down their homework in the homework journal</li><li>• Explain activities for homework so that pupils understand what to do</li><li>• Check and correct homework regularly</li><li>• Check homework journals daily</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write down homework in journal</li><li>• Ask the teacher if there's something you don't understand</li><li>• Try your best with all aspects of homework</li></ul>

## The Homework Journal

The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is particularly valuable as a means of communication between parents and teachers. Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal.

Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. 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.

## Communicating about Homework

It's time to communicate with the class teacher when your child

- hasn't completed homework due to family circumstances.
- cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- often spends longer than the recommended amount of time completing homework.

If there are any issues relating to homework, make an appointment with the class teacher.

## Remember

*If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong. This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. When this happens, we recommend you stop and either come back to it later or write a note to let the teacher know. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.*

*In general, please be encouraging and supportive, your attitude is contagious.*

## Ratification and Review

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Board of Management on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 16/11/21

Signed Gemma Yates

Principal

Date 16/11/21