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| <b>Approved Date:</b> | <b>December 2022</b> |
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### **Homework Policy**

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self – esteem, cooperation and responsibility and lifelong learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child’s education.

In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children’s ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

In November 2022, a parental survey was carried out. The aim of this survey was to help inform any policy edits. 51% of the parent body responded to the survey.

Questions included the following:

- 1. On average, how long does it take to complete the homework set?**
- 2. What aspects of homework do you find most beneficial?**
- 3. Does homework cause tension or anxiety at home?**
- 4. Does your child require help and support with their homework?**
- 5. Any further comments?**

95% of the respondents found that homework was beneficial.

The aspects of homework that were most beneficial included:

- Seeing the progress of learning
- The learning capabilities of the child
- Knowing what the child is doing in school, and being able to implement it.
- Teaches a student to be responsible, tracking their performance and see the results/ improvement/ difficulties etc.
- Spelling sheets sent home
- Reading and Maths
- Keeping up to date with how the child is progressing and highlighting areas that may need more work at home.
- It helps to reinforce learning. It encourages children to learn independently. Also, it gives an insight into what the child is learning, while helping me to identify areas of improvement.
- Learning routine

### **How often is homework given?**

Homework is given on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays but not on Fridays with certain 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 ‘homework off’ as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

### **Homework Content**

Usually, homework contains 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, spelling, tables, written work, pieces to be ‘learned by heart’, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class. 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.

### **Duration of 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 & Senior Infants**                      0 – 20 minutes –  
 Oral work (revision of words, reading, phonics)  
 1 written assignment.

**Rang 1 and 2**    20- 30 minutes  
 Spellings, tables, English and one written assignment.

**Rang 3 and 4**                      30 -40 minutes  
 Tables, spelling (Irish and English), English and Irish reading, two written assignments.

**Rang 5 and 6**                      40 -60 minutes  
 Tables, spelling, (Irish and English). English and Irish reading, 2/3 written assignments.

Project work may be given by the class teacher to be completed over a specified time period.

**Pupils should:**

- Enter homework accurately in the homework diary.
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly.

**Parents/Guardians should:**

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as much as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupil should have the Homework Journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree on a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Check that all homework is complete.
- Check that the child has all the necessary books, homework journal copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework journal or Class Dojo.

**Teacher should**

- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties.

**How often do teachers monitor homework?**

Ideally, teachers check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child’s homework 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 a 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 as it promotes responsibility and self esteem.

**What happens when homework is not done?**

When homework is not done regularly the teacher contacts parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.