

## Homework Policy

This policy has been reviewed in December 2012.

### Aims:

The aims of homework are :-

- To reinforce and revise work done in school.
- It may be used to complete work begun in school.
- To help the child to develop study skills and to work independently.
- To act as a form of communication between home and school.
- To allow Parents/Guardians to see how their child is progressing in different areas.

### Duration of Homework

Class	Times(Guidelines only)
Junior Infants	10- 15 minutes
Senior Infants	10-15 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

### Content of Homework

There is usually a balance between oral , reading and written work. Homework for Junior Infants concentrates on : Read to and with children, Word Lists and Phonics. For Senior Infants it focuses on completion of worksheets in Maths, writing and phonics together with reading. For other classes homework may be in a variety of subject areas.

### Frequency of Homework

Homework is given to all classes. Where appropriate it may also be given to pupils by the Learning Support Teachers.

Homework is set from Monday to Thursday. No homework is set for weekends but more senior pupils may be asked to complete project work at weekends. Homework not done during the week may have to be completed at weekends

Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal , children are given “ Homework Off” as a treat or as an acknowledgement of a special occasion.

### How Parents/Guardians can help

- Parents should try encourage and support their children with homework by:
  - (i) Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
  - (ii) Preventing interruptions or distractions such as TV
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty. If a child is experiencing continuous difficulty

with homework, parents/guardians should arrange a meeting with the teacher to discuss same.

- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- 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 that this work is done well.
- In the more senior classes children may be asked to use the Internet at home to research a project .You can help by supervising their Internet access. A Website we would recommend to you on Internet safety for both parents and children is [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)
- Should a parent/guardian find that, having given her best effort, a child is taking MUCH longer than the advised timing, parents may stop the homework and sign that they have done so for this reason. The homework journal should be signed each night after homework is checked.

#### The Importance of Learning Tables

By the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> class children should know their addition and subtraction tables thoroughly. From 3<sup>rd</sup> class onwards the focus is on multiplication and division tables.

Tables are a basic essential for when learning maths and children need to master them. Unless they do this , it will be difficult to learn other aspects of maths.

Teachers can TEACH tables but children REALLY NEED to learn them.

As parents you can help your children to memorize their tables by practising them each night and by playing games using tables. There are many games on the internet to help with tables.

#### **References:**

The Curriculum for each class can be accessed on [www.ncca.ie/parents](http://www.ncca.ie/parents). This website also includes video clips on the teaching of subjects such as Maths and lots of tips for parents on how to help your child at the different class levels.

This policy has been formulated by the staff in consultation with the Board of Management. It was formally ratified by the Board of Management. It will be subject to further review in 2014.

Issued by the Principal on :

Ratified by the Board of Management  
on:

Signed: Principal

Signed:

Principal

Chairperson , Board of Management.

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