

Homework Policy

Rationale

This policy was updated by the school staff in 2013 and reviewed in 2015 in line with the school's improvement plan.

Relationship to Characteristic Spirit of the School

St. Nicholas' N.S. seeks to enable each pupil to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.

Aims

- To benefit pupil learning
- To reinforce work done in class
- To develop study skills
- To keep parents in touch with and involved in their children's school work
- To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes

Procedures

- All classes are assigned homework according to their level.
- Provision is made for pupils with special educational needs.
- There is a balance between oral, reading and written work.
- Homework is used as a reinforcement of work done in class.
- Homework assignments are written into homework journals daily for pupils in 1st to 6th classes. SNAs may assist pupils with this task.
- Details of Junior Infant homework is sent home periodically. This is explained at the beginning of the year. Pupils in Senior Infants are given a sheet detailing the week's homework.
- Parents/guardians are expected to supervise homework and sign the homework journal each evening.
- Teachers sign the pupils' homework journal every morning when handed up by the pupil.
- Teachers check that homework is completed correctly and will give assistance where difficulties occur.
- Pupils will be excused from homework as a result of an exceptional event/ incident at home. Please let teacher know in this instance.
- Homework will generally not be given at weekends unless a pupil has failed to complete assignments during the week.

- On special occasions or celebrations pupils may be excused from homework.
- As part of the school's reward system pupils may earn a "Homework Pass" for written assignments.
- Sixth class pupils preparing for entrance/scholarship exams may be asked to do extra homework at the weekends as part of their preparation.
- In collaboration with the class teacher and parents, the support teacher may give specifically tailored homework to pupils who attend support classes e.g reading, spellings, tables or Maths.
- Pupils are taught study skills e.g. mind-mapping, spelling steps to assist them with their homework.

Responsibilities

Pupil Responsibilities

- Write down homework assignments correctly in journals.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Hand up homework to teacher.
- Inform teacher if there was a difficulty with an aspect of the homework assignment.

Parent/guardian Responsibilities

- Establish a good homework routine in a quiet environment.
- Ensure that homework is completed to the best of the child's ability.
- Give a helping hand when necessary.
- Listen to reading and help with learning tasks.
- Sign the homework journal when homework is completed.
- Consult with the class teacher if there are any concerns regarding homework.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Set homework at a level suitable to the pupil.
- Explain homework assignments
- Check that homework has been completed and sign journal.
- Correct homework assignments.
- Consult with parents where there are concerns.

- Give assistance where necessary.

Homework Guidelines

Junior Infants

Go over Jolly Phonic exercises.
Read Bookworm book/play Mata le Chéile game.
Talk about the child's day in school.

Senior Infants

Spellings + spelling workbook
Word envelope
Jolly Phonics Sound Book
Read Bookworm book/play Mata le Chéile game.
One piece of written work – English or Maths

Rang 1

Spellings + spelling workbook
Reading.
Tables
One piece of written work – Literacy or Numeracy
On occasions – research for projects

Rang 2

Spellings + spelling workbook
Reading
Tables
One piece of written work – Literacy or Numeracy
On occasions – research for projects

Rang 3

Spellings + spelling workbook
Reading English or Gaeilge
Tables
One piece of written work – Literacy or Numeracy
One piece of learning/look over work.
On occasions – research for projects

Rang 4

Spellings/litriú + spelling workbook

Reading English or Gaeilge

Tables

One piece of written work – Literacy, numeracy and Gaeilge

One piece of learning/look over work

On occasions – research for projects

Rang 5

Spellings/litriú + spelling workbook

Reading English or Gaeilge

Tables/ Maths facts/formulae

One piece of written work – Literacy, numeracy or Maths

One piece of learning/look over facts

On occasions – research for projects

Rang 6

Spellings/litriú + spelling workbook

Reading English or Gaeilge

Tables/ Maths facts/formulae

One piece of written work – Literacy, numeracy or Gaeilge.

One piece of learning/look over facts

On occasions – research for projects

- These are guidelines and may vary from time to time.
- Written assignments may include writing samples in the various writing genres.
- Homework should not take any longer than 45 minutes for junior classes.
- Homework should not take any longer than 60 minutes for senior classes

Success Criteria

- Satisfactory feedback from pupils, parents and teachers.
- Homework exercises and assignments successfully completed by pupils.
- Improvement in the links between home and school.

A copy of this policy will be circulated to all parents and will be published in the school booklet and on the school's website.

This policy will be implemented from the 1st December 2013.

This policy was last ratified by the BOM in November 2013. It was reviewed and ratified in 2018

Signed: *James Clarke* (Chairperson of the BOM)

Date: 31/01/2018

Review date: 2020