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Homework Policy

1 Why give homework?

- ◆ To re-inforce what the child learns during the day.
- ◆ To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- ◆ To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- ◆ Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- ◆ Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability, no more, no less.

2 How often is homework given?

- ◆ Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursday's but not of Fridays.
- ◆ Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher on the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

3 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, pieced 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.

4 How much (time) 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 only:

Junior Infants/Senior Infants	No written homework. Children may be required to read or do other appropriate tasks.
Rang 1/2	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 3/4	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 5/6	Up to 50 minutes

- ◆ Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at the weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

5 How much help should parents give?

- ◆ Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - Providing them with a suitable place to do their homework
 - To prevent interruptions or distractions like TV or other children.
- ◆ Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- ◆ If a child has difficulty with homework the parent should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not be actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

6 How often should parents monitor homework?

- ◆ Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening.
- ◆ The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- ◆ Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal.
- ◆ Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- ◆ Letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal. Please check your child's journal for such notes on a regular basis.

7 How often should teachers monitor homework?

- ◆ Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day.
- ◆ Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by the pupils themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

8 When should parents communicate with teachers about homework?

- ◆ When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- ◆ When your child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspects.
- ◆ If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

9 When should homework be done?

- ◆ Each family situation is different – both parents working, child minders etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break before starting homework. Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

REMEMBER:

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Signed: Thomas Hever
Fr. Tom Hever

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