

Saint Feichín's National School

Cross

Homework Policy

Introduction and Rationale:

In Saint Feichín's National School, we believe that homework is part of the learning process. Homework is meant to be achievable by a child. It provides an opportunity to practice work already done in the school. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class, but sometimes with senior classes homework is designed to challenge the child's ability and provides opportunities for creativity. Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability.

Aims of homework:

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day
- To develop the child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic
- To provide a link between home and school.

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. However, pupils in the senior classes may occasionally be required to work independently on projects/essays/homework at weekends. Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher, pupils may be given no homework as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Content:

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading, learning and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is just as important as written work. Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, extracts to be learnt by heart, drawing, colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.

Time Allocation:

The following are guidelines for time to be spent at homework. Please note that different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent at homework 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	0-10 mins
Senior Infants	up to 20 mins
Rang 1	up to 30 mins
Rang 2	up to 40 mins
Rang 3	up to 50 mins
Rang 4	up to 1 hour
Rang 5	up to 1 hour
Rang 6	up to 1 hour

Parents and Homework:

- Parents should try to help their children with their homework by providing them with a suitable place and time and to minimise interruptions and distractions. Ideally homework should be done soon after school but before any television is watched. Homework should never be left until morning time before school.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child is in difficulty. If a difficulty arises, the parent should assist by giving further explanations or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child.
- Parents should check and sign the child's homework journal every evening.
- Parents should contact the teacher if the child cannot do homework for the following reasons:
 - Because they cannot understand some aspect
 - Due to family circumstances
 - If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

Ideally teachers like to check homework daily; however, it is not possible to check each child's homework everyday. As children get older and learn to work independently the children themselves, under the direction of the teacher, may check some items of homework. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

Success Criteria:

- Benefit to pupil learning
- Feedback from pupils, parents and staff

Review and Ratification:

This policy was reviewed in October 2016.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on _____.

Tommy Murphy

Chairperson Board of Management