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## Homework Policy

### Introduction

The staff came together to review this policy and record what is current practice in this school.

### Rationale

It was deemed necessary to review this policy as teachers felt there was a need to promote consistency and similar approach to homework throughout the school. It is also hoped that this policy will strengthen links and communication between home and school.

### Relationship to the characteristic spirit of the school

Taanagh N.S. seeks to enable each pupil to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their learning.

### Aims

In our school, we give homework for the following reasons:

- To consolidate work already undertaken in school – it allows for revision and practice. However, at times, homework may be more challenging and provide opportunities for creativity.
- To encourage children to become independent learners and to revise, reinforce, finish work that has begun in school.
- To develop skills and self discipline that will be of benefit to children in order to enhance learning.
- To develop study skills and to assist in establishing an appropriate routine for children in doing their homework
- To develop a work ethic among pupils and assist in the development of concentration skills.
- Homework is intended to be achievable by the pupil and is normally prepared by the Class Teacher. Pupils are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability at all times.

*Homework also allows parents become aware of the work being done in school.*

### Assigning homework:

It is recommended that children are encouraged to sit down every evening, in a quiet place, away from distraction, to do their homework.

All classes from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class are assigned homework from Monday to Thursday. As a rule, homework is not given at weekends unless homework has not been done to the best of the pupil's ability (on a regular basis) during the week.

- involves project work (this applies to Senior Classes in particular).

Occasionally at the discretion of the Class Teacher or the Principal, pupils are given a night “off homework” as a treat/reward or as an acknowledgement of a special occasion/event in the school.

Extra homework may be assigned if a pupil does not have their homework done or has presented untidy or unfinished work.

Homework is differentiated for pupils with Special Educational Needs. Homework may be assigned by both the Class Teacher and/or Special Education Teacher following collaboration.

### **Content of Homework**

Homework is seen as reinforcement of work done in class. Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and writing tasks but this balance is not always possible and homework can vary from day to day.

Oral homework should be given equal importance. It is important for children to do reading, spellings and tables every night.

It should be noted that reading and learning tasks are as important as written tasks. Pupils sometimes do not regard reading and learning “off by heart” as homework. Parents play an important role in listening to reading and pieces to be learned off, thus ensuring this work is well done.

Homework will generally contain a selection of the following: reading, spellings, tables, written work, learning pieces “off by heart”, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class. Digital tasks may be incorporated also.

### **Time Allocation**

Different pupils will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and from one end of the school year to the other. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that is important. The following are guidelines for time spent on homework.

- Junior and Senior Infants 5-10 minutes
- First and Second Class 15-20 minutes
- Third and Fourth Class 25-30 minutes
- Fifth and Sixth Class 35-40 minutes

### **Homework Journal**

Pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> Class to 6<sup>th</sup> Class have a homework journal. Homework is generally assigned at the start of the school day. The Class Teacher presents the homework on the board at the beginning of the day and allows time for pupils to copy it into their homework journal. Parents are expected to sign the homework journal when all tasks are completed. Homework journals will be checked by the teacher on a daily basis insofar as possible. However, in the senior classes, they may be checked if a child is not completing his/her homework on a consistent basis.

## **Role of Parents/Guardians**

- Parents can help their child with their homework by providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework, away from distractions or interruptions, like the T.V.
- The child should be encouraged to do written homework themselves and parents should only help if the child is having difficulty.
- If the child is having difficulty with homework, parents should help the child with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case, the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem. In the Senior Classes, pupils should be encouraged to tell their teacher if they are experiencing any difficulties or if they need to clarify an aspect of their homework.
- Parents should check and sign the Homework Journal every evening.
- Children should be encouraged to work through their homework and tick each item of homework when completed.
- Parents should communicate with the child's teacher when a child cannot do homework due to family circumstances or when the child does not understand some aspect of the homework.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be written in the homework journal.

## **Role of Teachers**

Ideally, teachers will check homework on a daily basis. Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by the children themselves with teacher guidance. This can form part of the learning process for the children.

Every effort will be made to set homework appropriate to the child's ability.

## **Success Criteria**

The success of this policy will be determined by feedback from parents, pupils and teachers. This will be sought at Parent/Teacher Meetings during the 1<sup>st</sup> term. In general, where pupils are handing in satisfactory exercises and assignments and reading and memorising activities are well practiced, this will be interpreted as reflecting positively on this policy. Similarly, where the results of regular class assessments are satisfactory, this will also be interpreted as reflecting positively on this policy.

## **Roles and Responsibility**

The class teacher assigns homework, taking into consideration the recommended time allocation for homework and monitors it on a regular basis.

The pupils (1<sup>st</sup> Class – 6<sup>th</sup> Class) are responsible for writing homework in their homework journal and taking home all the necessary books, copies and equipment necessary to complete the homework.

Parents are responsible for providing a suitable place, free of distractions, for the child to do their homework. They are also responsible for monitoring the homework process at home and ensuring that all homework is complete to the best of the child's ability.

Parents are also responsible for communicating with the class teacher where difficulties may arise.  
The Principal is responsible for the implementation of this policy and for its review.

**Implementation Date**

This policy is currently being implemented throughout the school.

**Timetable for Review**

This policy will be reviewed in September 2024 or before if the need arises.

**Ratification and Communication**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_

Principal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_