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St. Patrick's S.N.S.
Roll Num.: 163320
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Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, co-operation, responsibility and life-long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what our pupils learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parents and encourages parental involvement in their children's education.

Frequency of Homework

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Pupils are sometimes given a night free from homework at the discretion of the principal or class teacher to acknowledge academic or behavioural achievement, or to mark a special occasion.

Homework Content

Homework usually contains a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. It should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as time devoted to written work.

Your Child & Reading – Our recent change of reading scheme includes a very beneficial book to encourage reading at home 'Read at Home Book'. Please support this on a daily basis.

Duration of Homework

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent may vary from time to time and also from the beginning to the end of the school year.

- Sixth Class: One Hour
- Fifth Class: Fifty minutes
- Fourth Class: Forty minutes
- Third Class: Thirty minutes

Homework Recording and Supervision

Homework assignments are recorded daily by children in their homework journals, which are regularly checked by the class teacher. Because homework is done in the home, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that it is completed. A signature space is provided in the journal to facilitate parents in this task.

How much help should parents give?

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- preventing interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children

Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has any difficulty

If a child has difficulty with homework, parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In a rare case when a child still does not understand what is required in the homework task the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally teachers like to check homework daily. However, with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework every day.

As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day. Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

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

The plan will be implemented by the teachers and SNAs supported by the Board of Management from _____.

It will be reviewed every ___ years.

Review Date: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: _____