

# Homework Policy

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## Homework Policy

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in St.Maelruain's Primary School we regard homework as important for the following reasons:

It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.

It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.

It can involve parents and family in the pupil's work, to their mutual benefit.

It gives pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study.

It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at secondary school and in later life.

It also enables the teacher:

To monitor pupil progress with a view to improving standards.

To provide pupils and parents with clear and relevant feedback.

To suggest strategies for improvement and goals to be achieved.

To seek extra resources to support those pupils in need of additional help or additional challenge.

Homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects, portfolios, diagnostic and standardised tests all lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of a pupil's progress and development as they move through the school.

All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Some of their tasks may be designed to consolidate the child's classroom learning experiences, while other tasks will encourage the child to work independently and with initiative. Reading practice is a priority for all children.

In the Infant classes, the children receive a homework bag on Monday. This bag contains the homework for the week and should be returned on Thursday.

The time required for homework varies by class as follows:

Junior Infants: 10-15 minutes

Senior Infants: 15-20 minutes

1st and 2nd classes: 20-30 minutes

3rd and 4th classes: 30-45 minutes

5th and 6th classes: 45 minutes-60 minutes

These times are guidelines; some children may complete the work in less time.

However, if your child is taking more than the guideline time, please confer with the teacher.

Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday, (September-June) leaving the weekend free for family activities. However, pupils may be asked to complete unfinished work at weekends. Homework missed due to illness does not normally have to be completed.

Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day and parents are encouraged to read to younger children every day.

Children from Infants have access to Math Seeds, while students from 1<sup>st</sup> Class to 6<sup>th</sup> Class use Mathletics, an app and online based portal. Students are encouraged to use interact with these programmes regularly.

The nature of the homework assigned will inevitably change during such times as Book Week, Christmas, Easter etc. Occasionally pupils may be given a night off (or a Homework Pass) as a reward for a special effort made by the class or by an individual.

We ask parents to support our Homework policy by:

**Providing space and time for their child to do their homework. Turn off the television and radio until the homework is finished.**

**Checking that the homework is completed and signing the homework journal.**

**Discussing interesting aspects of the work assigned.**

**Using the method suggested by the teacher for the learning of spellings.**

**Regularly checking memorisation of tables.**

**Informing teachers of problems when they arise.**

**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.
- Newsletters 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.

### How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally teachers like to check homework and homework journal on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework and homework journal every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once per week.
- 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 after an honest attempt because she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

### 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 alert, 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, and where exceptional circumstances prevent the completion of homework, please contact the class teacher.