



Homework Policy

Introduction:

This policy seeks to provide guidance for teachers and parents/ guardians when setting and completing homework. Stratford NS seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages children to work independently and to take responsibility for their assignments. The policy was written by the staff of the school and revised following consultation with the student council, parents/ guardians and the Board of Management.

Aims of Homework:

- To re-enforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parents/ guardians.
- To develop a child's concentration and study skills
- To strengthen links between home and school, as parents/ guardians notice difficulties, which may have been missed in school
- To develop independent working skills
- To raise awareness of difficulties of the children, as the work is completed independently, with no input from other children.

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise 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.

Homework Guidance:

- Homework is given from Monday to Thursday but not on Friday.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given a night off homework as a reward or as acknowledgment of a special occasion.
- The children will not be given homework on their birthday, to enable the children to spend time celebrating with their family.
- Some teachers may choose to assign the homework for the week on Monday and collect it on Friday. The children are expected to ask for help from the teacher as soon as they have difficulty with the homework, and not to wait until Friday. It is preferable for the children to complete the work on the day it is set.

Homework Content:

Homework will contain a balance between reading, learning and written tasks. Children attending the support staff may also be assigned homework tasks.

Reading:

All children are set reading homework every night. All classes use a reading record, as a method of communicating what is to be read every night. Parents/ guardians/ guardians are asked to sign the reading record after they have read with the children from Jnr Infants to 4th class on a daily basis. Although the teacher might not have time to hear and assign reading daily, we recommend parents/ guardians/ guardians either reread the book if it is short or keep going if the book is longer.



Learning:

The children are asked to learn spellings and tables during the week in preparation for a weekly test. This may include Irish spellings, depending on the class grouping. There may also be occasions when the children are asked to memorise a poem or words of a song for example.

Written Homework:

Written homework may contain some or all of the following task types depending on the age of the child:

- Spelling activities
- Maths activities
- Written activities based on comprehension, history or geography for example
- Phonics
- Handwriting

Special classes

Children in the autism classes may be assigned homework, depending on the learning needs of the children. The class teacher will communicate the homework to parents on a weekly basis.

Homework Diaries:

Each child from 1st – 6th class has a homework diary, in which they record their homework.

Homework for infants is sent home by the class teacher. Homework notebooks can also be used to send messages to the teachers, to explain why the children have not completed their homework. Homework diaries may also be used to communicate

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

Time for 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 and have been based upon guidance from the National Parents Council.

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|---|------------------|
| • Infants | 10- 20 minutes |
| • 1 st and 2 nd Class | 20 to 30 minutes |
| • 3 rd and 4 th Class | 30 to 40 minutes |
| • 5 th and 6 th Class | 45 to 1 hour |

Homework Environment

Parents/ guardians should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework to prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V.



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(under the auspices of Dublin Talmud Torah)



- Children should do written homework themselves, and parents/ guardians should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents/ guardians should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by doing the homework for the child. In this case the parents/ guardian should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Parents/ guardians should check and sign a child's homework journal or reading record every evening.

Homework and the Code of Behaviour:

Homework is an important part of school life and sanctions for incomplete or carelessly completed homework are included in the school's Code of Behaviour. If the children arrive into school with unsigned reading records, incomplete or carelessly completed homework, the following list of sanctions will apply:

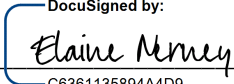
- An opportunity to complete or redo the homework that night
- A note home to parents/ guardians
- Completion of homework during Golden Time
- A meeting will be requested with parents/ guardians.

Remember:

If homework is a negative experience between parents/ guardians 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. Class teachers spend adequate time explaining child's homework each day to ensure that children know the tasks that have been assigned.

Homework is a priority in all classes and vital for the reinforcement of daily learning – ideally it should be completed before children start any other activities.

First Created: November 2024

Signed  (Chairperson)
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