

Homework Policy – St.Colman’s National School

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in St.Colman’s National School we regard homework as important for the following reasons,

Aims

- It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit and consolidate skills learned in class especially in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy.
- It involves parents and family in pupils work to their mutual benefit.
- It gives children an opportunity to develop the responsibility and self –discipline needed for independent learning and study.
- It prepares children for the transfer to secondary school.
- It enables the class teacher to monitor progress and to provide pupils and parents with clear relevant feedback.

Homework along with schoolwork, teacher observation, 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.

Content of Homework

All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Some of their tasks may be designed to consolidate classroom learning while other tasks, especially in senior Classes will encourage the child to work independently and with initiative. Ideally homework will contain 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 written tasks. Differentiation will occur in the content and expectations of homework for those children with learning difficulties.

Time spent completing Homework

The time required for homework varies by class as follows. These times are general guidelines. Some children may complete the work in less time. However, if a child is taking more time than the guideline suggests, parents should send in a note stating the above and / speak to the class teacher. Special consideration will always be given to children with learning difficulties.

Junior Infant and Senior Infants 10-15 minutes.

First and Second Classes 20-25 minutes.

Third and Fourth Classes 30-35 minutes.

Fifth and Sixth Classes 35-45 minutes

Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday. Occasionally pupils may be given a night off (Homework pass) as a reward for a special effort or community celebration.

We ask parents to support our policy by

- Providing space and time, free from distractions for the completion of homework.
- Agree a suitable time for homework taking into account age, need for playtime etc.
- Checking that homework is completed and parents signature supplied in the homework journal.
- Encouraging good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Using methods suggested by teachers e.g., strategies for learning spellings and the implementation of paired reading.
- Regularly checking memorisation of tables.
- Informing teachers of problems with completion of homework when they arise. If a child has a substantial difficulty completing homework within a reasonable period of time (outlined in guideline), the remaining tasks should be left incomplete so as not to cause frustration and anxiety for the child. A note explaining the difficulty should be given to the teacher so that the problem can be addressed the following day.
- Forwarding a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Role of Class Teacher

- To provide an explanation tasks to parents especially in Junior Infants. This may be done by a note from class teacher or a Junior Infant parent meeting.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To ensure homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework to a high standard.
- To correct homework and give constructive/positive feedback.
- To collaborate with Learning Support /Resource teacher in setting differentiated homework assignments. Learning Support teachers will have a specific targeted programme of work for children in need of support/resource teaching. Occasionally LS/Resource teachers in conjunction with a child's parents and class teacher will set homework tasks linked to their specific programmes.
- The Home/School Liaison Form is sometimes used to inform parents when homework has not been completed.

Role of the Pupil

- Enter homework accurately in homework journal and ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework tasks to the best of their ability.

This policy is reviewed by our staff annually.

Scoil Naomh Colmáin