

# St. Joseph's NS

## Homework Policy

### **Introductory Statement**

This policy was formulated with staff, parents and pupils.

### **Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school**

St Joseph's NS seeks to enable each child to develop to his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.



### **Rationale - Why give homework?**

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills, study skills and develop a work ethic and routine for pupils
- 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.
- To strengthen links and communication between home and school

### **How often is homework given?**

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:
  - If homework has been neglected during the week
  - In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion
- Please note extra homework may be sometime be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

### **Assigning Homework**

All classes will receive homework assignments. Parents will receive a list of homework by email each week.

Homework reinforces work done in school, is differentiated according to children's needs and abilities and is always explained to children in school.

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work

Homework may regularly contain reading, tables, written work, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class, some project work, some research, oral language activities and pieces to be "learned by heart". Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done in class. The teacher in class normally prepares it. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunity for creativity.

Homework is a link between home and school and is prepared daily in class as per work undertaken in class. We **do NOT set Homework for extended absences such as HOLIDAYS**. If you want to work with your child during holidays, encourage your child to read; perhaps your child could keep a holiday diary, do Maths quizzes, find out interesting things about the geography and history of your holiday destination, do a project for his class on his holiday destination, etc.

### **How much (time) 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:

Junior Infants	0 - 15 minutes
Senior Infants	max 20 minutes
Rang 1	max 25 minutes
Rang 2	max 30 minutes
Rang 3	max 40 minutes
Rang 4	max 45 minutes
Rang 5	max 50 minutes
Rang 6	max 1 hour

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. There is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects.

There may be exceptions, birthdays, weekends, special occasions and sometimes children are given "No Homework" as a treat or an acknowledgement of some special occasion.

If children receive a "Homework Pass" it should be mutually agreed upon by the teacher and pupil as to date of usage.

Incomplete homework may *occasionally* be resent home during the week.

### **How much help should parents give?**

- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability.
- Parents 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. or other children
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty



- If a child has difficulty with homework, the 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 this case the parent should contact the teacher explaining the problem
- 'Paired reading' is an extremely important part of homework and is also an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. This homework needs to be signed each night.
- All homework needs to be monitored by parents/guardians each night.

#### **How often do teachers monitor homework?**

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis.
- Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.
- Teachers will keep a record of pupils whose homework is regularly incomplete. This will be brought to parent's/guardian's attention.

#### **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 aspect
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

#### **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, please contact the class teacher.**

#### **The Role of Parents/Guardians and Pupils**

This policy will also make parents aware of the need for a 'homework routine' – i.e. the provision of a suitable quiet place and time for homework.

#### **Success Criteria**

Some practical indicators of the success of the policy:

- Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils.
- Feedback from teachers, pupils and parents.

#### **Ratification & Communication.**

This policy was ratified by the BOM St. Joseph's N.S. on 18/06/24.

Signed Principal: Mr O Kelly

Date: 18/06/24

Signed Chairperson: [Signature]

Date: 18/06/24