

# Homework Policy

## Homework and Learning

It is important that there are close links between home and school with regard to homework. Homework has a particular part to play with helping children to learn:

- ✓ It is part of a carefully thought out programme;
- ✓ It has a purpose. It can allow a child to complete a task which they have begun in school; it can give a child the opportunity to apply what they have learned in other situations; it can allow a child show off at home what they have learned in school.
- ✓ It is suitable to the abilities of each child; each pupil should be able to attempt and complete homework within a reasonable timeframe;
- ✓ It is properly explained to the child in school before the child goes home;
- It is checked by the teacher, with credit being given for personal effort.

## The role of the parent

Parents have an important role in:-

- Encouraging the child in his/her work;
- Observing the work of the child;
- Listening to the child reading;
- Looking over completed work and signing it;
- Making sure the child makes a genuine effort to do the homework without any unnecessary assistance.

If your child has difficulties, it is good that the parents offer to help. However if the parent has given the child a reasonable amount of help, and s/he still cannot complete the task, the parent might best help by writing a note to the teacher informing of the child's difficulties. Homework should not be an occasion of stress, trauma or tension within the family.

## **Practical suggestions for parents**

- Set suitable times for doing homework, taking account of other needs such as recreation and family circumstances;
- Set aside a reasonable amount of time for homework (e.g. a quiet place free of tv, playstation etc; a clear working area; helpful books such as a dictionary)
- Get in touch with the school at an early stage if the child is having difficulties with homework. Make an appointment in advance with the class teacher.

## **Amount of time for homework**

- Junior and Senior Infants: up to 10 minutes
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> class: 10 to 30 minutes
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class: 10 to 50 minutes

The above times may vary and different days may present different possibilities.

## **Items for homework**

From 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class children will often receive a combination of the following:

- **READING:** It is important that the child read regularly. Even if reading is not given for homework, it is very valuable that parents regularly listen to the child reading, especially in the early years and with more reluctant readers. Even with older children it can be very beneficial to listen to your child reading. It is also very rewarding that you read to your child, especially the younger child.
- **WRITTEN WORK:** This may include Maths, Irish, English, project work, visual arts, science, etc.
- **MEMORISATION:** e.g. spellings, poetry, song, tables, Irish grammar, etc