



St. Patrick's Primary School,
Hazelhatch Road,
Celbridge,
Co Kildare.
W23Y300
Roll number: 20257C

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

Homework plays a valuable role in the partnership between home and school. It helps parents/guardians to become actively involved in their child's learning, to see their child's progress and to support their learning. This policy, devised by teachers in consultation with parents/guardians and approved by the Board of Management, is intended to maximise the benefit to pupils of time spent on homework. It details reasons for homework, types of homework that may be given to children at different stages, recommendations on time to be spent on homework, advice on conditions that should be available to the child for doing homework and what to do if problems arise.

The Reasons for Homework

Homework is provided in order to:

- reinforce what the pupil learns in school
- assess pupil's independent learning
- inform teacher's future planning
- develop self-discipline, good habits around independent learning and study, and work ethic
- challenge pupils' ability and provide opportunities for creativity, e.g. through individual/group projects, etc.
- offer parents/guardians an opportunity to be involved in their child's learning, and to see his/her academic progress.

Types of Homework

Homework usually consists of a combination of reading, written and oral work. Oral work may include tasks such as learning tables, learning spellings, poetry and learning off facts. Written work may include a variety of subjects such as language/s, Mathematics, History/Geography and Religion. Project work and active homework may also be assigned.

Pupils should be encouraged to read outside of their formal homework. The type and amount of homework given will vary depending on the class of the pupil.

Time to be Spent on 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:

- Infants – approximately 10 minutes
- First/Second – approximately 10-20 minutes
- Third/Fourth – approximately 20-30 minutes
- Fifth/Sixth – approximately 30-45 minutes

Considerations for Teachers

- Homework should be an integral part of the subject being taught
- Homework should be corrected regularly in school. The approach to correction varies, and depends on the class level
- Teachers should differentiate homework, as appropriate
- Homework will be assigned Monday to Thursday only
- Where a pupil receives homework from their SET, the class teacher and SET will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive. Homework should not exceed the times indicated above.

Expectations of Pupils

It is expected that pupils will:

- return their homework on time
- complete and present their homework to the best of their ability
- appreciate that study tasks and learning spellings and tables are as important as written tasks
- bring a note to school explaining why a task is incomplete, if homework has not been completed.

Pupils need only bring home the books they require for homework. They can leave other books in school. However, not taking home the required books is not an acceptable excuse for not doing homework. For children from First to Sixth Class, incomplete homework, without an explanation, will result in the pupil being asked to complete the missing homework the

following night. Parents/Guardians will be notified of this through a note in the child's journal.

Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

The school encourages the active involvement of parents/guardians in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to:

- establish a set routine and time for your child to do his/her homework
- show an interest in what is done and encourage your child.
- talk about the task, give some ideas, then allow your child to begin.
- listen to spellings, tables and reading
- do not do your child's homework for him/her, try to allow your child to work independently, especially from First Class onwards
- supervise children's homework, checking the homework when it is complete
- check written work to ensure it is done carefully and with appropriate effort.
- check your child's journal and sign it each evening
- forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances
- reinforce the message that reading and learning is as important as written work.

Please note, if you choose to take your child out of school during the school term, class teachers should not be asked to set work for this time.

How to Support your Child

- Supporting the completion of non-written homework
- Be conscious of the guideline times given above. These are approximate times for children at different class levels. If your child experiences difficulty and is regularly exceeding these guideline times, please note in the student's journal the amount of time spent on homework
- Discuss with the teacher if your child is having difficulty completing homework on a regular basis.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to staff and the school community as appropriate and will be subjected to regular review.

Review Process

In accordance with the systematic cycle of review of policies adopted in St. Patrick's Primary School, it will be reviewed initially after one year and then every three years, unless there is a compelling reason to review it earlier.

Ratification

Reviewed & Ratified by the Board of Management, St. Patrick's Primary School, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.

Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____
Principal

Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____
Chairperson