

St. Andrew's National School

Homework Policy

1. 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 and develop a work ethic.
- 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.

2. How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions to this:
 - If homework has been neglected during the week.
 - In senior classes some project work is undertaken.
- Occasionally at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Extra homework may be given at weekends or during the week if a child has not done homework, has not made a suitable effort or has presented untidy work.
- Homework is written in homework journals from 1st - 6th Classes.

3. What is the content of homework?

- 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. Homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be 'learned by heart', drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to learned, in order to ensure that this work is done well.

4. 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	Up to 20 minutes
1 st Class	Up to 30 minutes
2 nd Class	Up to 40 minutes
3 rd Class	Up to 45 minutes
4 th Class	Up to 50 minutes
5 th Class	Up to 1 hour
6 th Class	Up to 1 hour 15 minutes

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends, before a school tour or before a day off. Children may be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

5. How much help should parents/guardians give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework and to endeavour to prevent interruptions.

- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parent should help by explaining or giving examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child.

6. How often should parents/guardians monitor homework?

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal each evening.
- The homework journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Children are expected to write their homework neatly and accurately in their homework journal and tick each item as it is completed.
- Parents should check their child's written homework each evening. Learning homework and reading should also be checked.

7. How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers, it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week.
- Some items of homework may be checked by the children themselves under the direction of the teacher.

8. When should parents communicate with the class teacher about homework?

- If your child cannot complete the homework due to an unavoidable situation.
- If your child is having difficulty with the homework.
- If the time being spent on homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

9. When should homework be done?

- Ideally homework should be done soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break and a snack first.
- Homework should not be left until late in the evening or until the next morning.

Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.