

# Homework Policy

## St. Aidan's N.S.

For most children, homework is part of the normal routine and parents generally support and assist their children while they are doing it. However, for some parents and children it may be problematic and stressful and may cause the parent-child relationship to come under strain. So, what is homework meant to achieve? What is the purpose of teachers setting, and pupils doing, homework? What part should parents play in homework?

### **Reasons for homework?**

- To ensure that what is taught in school is reinforced.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop the child's concentration skills and work ethic.
- To challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- To develop motivation, and the ability to learn independently.

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

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- At the discretion of the class teacher or principal, children may be given "homework off" as a treat, or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion or event.
- In exceptional circumstances, children may be allocated homework for the weekend :
  - if homework has been neglected during the week
  - as a sanction for unacceptable behaviour or misdemeanours .

### **What is the content of homework?**

- The nature of the homework will vary for different classes and different age groups.
- Ideally, homework will contain a balance between reading, learning and written tasks.
- Homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.

- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/colouring, collecting information, carrying out a project and finishing work started in class.

### **Time spent at homework?**

- Some children may take a longer time than others to complete the homework assigned to them. The type and amount of homework may vary from day to day depending on the subject or the stage of the year.
- The following are general guidelines for time spent at homework
- Junior Infants                      Up to 10minutes
- Senior Infants                      10 to 15 minutes
- Rang 1                                      Up to 20 minutes
- Rang 2                                      Up to 30 minutes
- Rang 3                                      30 to 40 minutes
- Rang 4                                      Up to 45 minutes
- Rang 5                                      Up to 50 minutes
- Rang 6                                      Up to 1 hour

### **What part can parents play in homework?**

- Parents can encourage and support the children in getting it completed.
- They can provide a comfortable and suitable place of work where homework is completed without unnecessary interruptions.
- They can encourage the children to develop a routine each evening for doing their work.
- They can, if it’s needed, explain and discuss aspects of the homework.
- They can participate in “Shared Reading”, listen to the child read and examine work which has to be learned by rote.
- Parents can assist the children in ensuring that homework is presented neatly and appropriately.
- The homework notebook is a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers. Parents should check and sign a child’s homework notebook every evening.
- If the time spent on homework is longer than recommended in the guidelines, or if a child has difficulty in understanding or completing the homework, parents should communicate with the class teacher in the first instance who will be glad to help.

### **How often should teachers monitor/correct homework?**

- Homework is checked by teachers on a daily basis. However, it may not be possible to check all homework every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often.
- Some items of homework and classwork may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher.

Well planned, well structured and parent-supported homework is designed to ease the child's passage through school and lessen anxiety about learning. Homework is meant to involve the parents in the education of their children and create links between home-learning and school-learning. Properly and carefully planned homework is intended to lead to successful learning for the pupils and help them to develop as people who have an active interest in learning.

*This policy was reviewed at the September 2010 staff meeting. The parent body and the BOM members will be consulted about this policy and it will be brought for ratification to the Dec.2010 meeting of the BOM.*