



St. Patrick's National School

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Homework Policy

Why give homework?

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To keep parents in touch and involved in their children's work
- 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 practice 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.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.
- Occasionally pupils may be given a night off (Homework Pass) as a reward for a special effort made by a class or individual or as acknowledgment of some special occasion
- Homework may be provided for a child who is absent for more than a week due to illness and feels well enough to complete the learning tasks.
- However, homework will not be provided in the event that a child is absent from school due to a family holiday during school term.

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 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 be learned ensuring this work is done well.
- Homework may be adjusted according to the needs of the pupil. Parents will be consulted on this matter.

How much time for 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	10 minutes
Senior Infants	10-15 minutes
Rang 1	20 minutes
Rang 2	30 minutes
Rang 3	30-40 minutes
Rang 4	30-40 minutes
Rang 5	40-60 minutes
Rang 6	40-60 minutes

The time spent should be concentrated activity, this will include homework given by Resource, Learning Support or Language teacher. For children attending these teachers, priority will be given to their homework.

Teachers' role

- Homework may be given at the end of each lesson or at the end of the day, at the teacher's discretion.
- Homework is given every night, but not at weekends.
- Class teacher may operate award systems that allow a homework pass.
- Teachers take care to be consistent about the amount given and about correction.
- A certain time each day is given to each class to take down homework in their journal. A homework sheet with the weeks homework is given to pupils in the junior side of the school.
- Teachers ensure consistency in the amount and variety of homework assignments.

Content of homework

Homework given is normally a reinforcement of work done in class.

Teachers ensure that assignments given are clear and can be managed by pupils working independently.

There is a balance between oral, reading and written work; but the balance does not have to be rigid each night. The ratio of oral to written will change as classes get older, with older classes having a higher proportion of written work.

Oral work could involve interviews with parents (e.g. Family Tree—History; or surveys for data purposes in Maths). It will also involve some rote learning such as tables, spellings, words of songs or poems.

Reading – in Junior classes, children will read with an adult. In senior classes reading will be more independent and may have written work based on it. There is a system of monitoring the reading of each child operated in each class. Text-books, class novels, other reading material. Written work could include story-writing, exercise from workbooks, history projects, Irish sentences etc. Maths homework will be written.

Each class-teacher begins the school year using a system that facilitates monitoring and correction of homework.

Checking of homework

- In senior classes homework can be checked at different times during the day as the subject fits into the timetable, if this is what suits the teacher.
- Self-correction or peer correction under supervision of teacher may be appropriate. This is followed by quick scan by teacher to ensure homework has been done to a satisfactory level. Copies can be collected and corrected privately by teacher with written comments, where appropriate.

Workbooks are checked and marked by teacher on completion of exercises.

- Feedback will be provided in a variety of forms, including visual feedback during class activities; written feedback during class activities and teacher observation used to inform next steps in learning. Teachers ensure oral, written and visual feedback is given.

Guidelines for Parents

- Establish a set routine and time for your child to do his/her homework, in a quiet place free from distractions
- Supervise children's homework, checking and signing it on completion.
- Help and encourage the child but do not do the homework for him/her
- Encourage your child to take care of school books.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. Graded readers are given to each child. If your child is experiencing any difficulty please speak to your child's teacher.
- Encourage your child to use rulers for margins and drawing lines.
- Encourage your child to present work neatly.
- Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If homework is not done and there is no explanation from parents, children should do it the following night at home.
- If a pattern of not doing homework is emerging, dates should be noted and parents will be informed.
- For homework that is untidy/dirty, or careless children may have to repeat it.
If this happens regularly parents can be informed through notes on homework journal, informally in the morning or at home time.
- Positive written or verbal comments to child, in-class awards, positive comments to parents at informal meetings in the morning or going home time, P/T meetings and end of year reports.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework sheet/journal every evening
Contact can be made on Aladdin or to your child's teacher's email address.
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed

Pupils

- Pupils should do their homework to the best of their ability. It is important that what they present to the teacher should be neat and most especially clean.
- Homework is almost always follow-on to, or a revision of, what has been covered in class. For this reason, children should be able to do it with minimal support. Children may ask parent/guardian for help, not answers. However, if they are having on-going problems, teacher should be informed.
- If child is unable to do or complete a piece of homework, write a note to teacher the next day. Homework is not a punishment, and never given as punishment. Its purpose is to reinforce material covered in class and encourage the child to be a more independent learner.

We merely insist that each child works to the best of his/her ability. A child's homework should reflect this ability.

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 on an ongoing basis because she/he cannot understand some aspect
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.
- Please identify difficulties early in the year. Your teacher needs to know. No child should worry unnecessarily and fret over homework.

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.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in February 2026 and we propose that it will be reviewed again in 2028.

Signed: Richard Williams
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 26/02/2026

Signed: Catríona O'Donovan
Principal

Date: 26/2/26