



St. Fintan's N.S. Homework Policy

Introduction:

It is the policy of St. Fintan's N.S. to have homework, as part of the pupil's curriculum work being taught throughout the school. Homework is seen as a continuation and reinforcement of the work being done in the school and also it provides a link between school and home.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:
 - If homework has been neglected during the week
 - In senior classes some project work may be undertaken at weekends
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "Homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion
- Please note extra homework may be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, or worked to the best of their ability.

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. However, it should be noted that 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
- Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to both reading and items to be learned, ensuring this work is done well.

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/Senior Infants	20 minutes
Rang 1	20 minutes
Rang 2	20 minutes
Rang 3	30 minutes
Rang 4	40 minutes
Rang 5	50 minutes
Rang 6	60 minutes

Children should spend no longer than the above time guidelines working on their homework.

How much help should parents give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
 - Preventing interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

How often should parents monitor homework?

Junior Infants-2nd Class

- Parents should sit with their child when completing both reading and writing homework

3rd Class -6th Class

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal

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 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 (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

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 because she/he cannot understand some aspect
- If the homework cannot be completed in the recommended time.

When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break before starting homework
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school

Homework during times of pupil Absence

In the event that a pupil is absent from school over a prolonged period due to illness, the class teacher may liaise with parents/ educational support services in an effort to keep the pupil up to date with the most important items being covered in class.

In the event that a pupil is absent from school to go on a family holiday or similar event it is school policy not to issue homework for that period.

Wellbeing

It is school policy that there will be no written homework in June in order to support the wellbeing of our students. When the weather gets nicer, children are encouraged to spend the time engaging in outdoor activities.

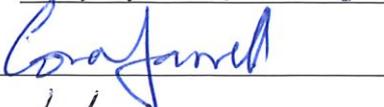
If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

This policy will be reviewed as necessary by the Board of Management.

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 22nd April 2024.

Chairperson: 

Martin Mc Inerney

Principal: 

Cora Farrell

Date: 28/5/24