

# St. Patrick's Primary School



## Homework Policy

Ratified by Board of Governors on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.

Reviewed annually.

'We learn to love and love to learn.'

## Rationale

Homework is an integral part of every pupil's learning. Homework is anything that pupils do outside the normal school day, contributing to their learning in response to guidance from the school. Homework encompasses a variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support pupils' learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework.

Homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment but we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. While homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in the wide range of out-of-school clubs and organisations that play an important part in the lives of many children.

## Aims

The aims of our Homework Policy are:

- To consolidate, develop and extend work done in school and to allow pupils to practice skills taught in lessons.
- To help pupils to develop the skills of independent learning.
- To promote a partnership between home and school to support each pupil's learning.
- To develop each pupil's self-discipline and self-motivation
- To help pupils to develop good work habits for the future.

## Types

We set a variety of homework activities. E.g., learning of spellings or rules, practice work, problem-solving activities and investigations/challenges, creative writing, research, competitions, puzzles, revision, etc. Homework may consist of one or more subjects from the different curricular areas such as Religious Education, Literacy, Numeracy and activities related to current/ongoing topic areas. Learning-based activities that do not involve written work e.g. Spelling, Tables, Prayers, should be regarded as a very important part of homework.

Sometimes we ask pupils to talk about a topic at home prior to studying it in school. Sometimes pupils are asked to find and collect things, for example, materials for use in The World Around Us or The Arts lessons in school. Occasionally pupils take home work that would benefit from being developed or completed at home.

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### Equipment

Please ensure that your child/children has/have all the necessary equipment for completing their homework properly, e.g. pencils, erasers, rulers, a dictionary and a thesaurus.

### Duration

We increase the amount of homework that we give the pupils as they move through the school. On average, we suggest that the time spent on homework should be:

Year 1 & 2: Approximately 15-30 minutes per night

Year 3 & 4: Approximately 30-60 minutes per night.

Year 5/6/7: At least 60 minutes per night.

### Timetables

Timetables for homework in each class are included in this policy (Appendix 1). These have been created as a guide. Please note that the class teacher may vary homework at various stages throughout the year.

### Differentiation

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the pupil.

If a pupil has special educational needs we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all pupils can contribute in a positive way. When setting homework for pupils named on the Register of Special Educational Needs, we refer to Education Plans relating to individual pupils.

### The Role Of The Parents

We see homework as an important way of establishing a successful partnership between pupils, parents and teachers. Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education and homework is an important part of this process. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's homework. We invite parents to help their children, as they feel necessary and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best. Parents should try to make sure that a time is set aside each night for their homework in a quiet place where there are no televisions, radios, video games, etc, to disturb them.

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Please ensure that your child's written homework is:

- ✓ Completed as soon as possible after school.
- ✓ Completed in a quiet environment.
- ✓ Given an appropriate title and date.
- ✓ Ruled neatly.
- ✓ **Checked, signed and dated by a parent or guardian.** This shows your child that home and school are working in partnership.

### Consultation With Parents

Our Homework Policy is issued to parents on an annual basis, at the start of each academic year. Parents are asked to return a reply slip to show that they have received, read and understood the policy.

Parents were consulted on homework through a questionnaire issued in June 2016.

Currently parents of pupils in Year 2 and Year 6 are invited to a Transition Meeting in the third term. Homework is explained and discussed at these meetings.

### Communication

Ideas about how you can help your child with his/her homework is communicated through a monthly Newsletter/Learning Support Sheet.

If your child is unable to do homework for any reason, a short explanation in his/her Home-School Messages book would be greatly appreciated.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher. If their questions are of a more general nature, they should contact the Principal.

### Conclusion

We, as teachers endeavour to take great care to cater for the needs of the individual pupil/group(s) of pupils within our classes. We can only do this with your help and co-operation. We know that the time you, as parents/guardians, spend with your child/children on an individual basis can make a real difference when carried out consistently.

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### Monitoring And Review

This policy was ratified on: 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.

It was reviewed by staff: August, 2011,  
August 2012  
27<sup>th</sup> August 2013,  
September 2014,  
27<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.  
24<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.

It was reviewed by Governors on: Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014.

Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

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# Appendix One

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## Year One And Two- Homework Timetable

Day	Year One	Year Two	Year Two *Third Term
Monday	Reading (January/February) Homework Pack (Early November)	Reading (Early September) Homework Pack (Early September)	Reading Spellings Mental Maths
Tuesday	Reading Homework Pack	Reading Homework Pack	Reading Spellings Literacy
Wednesday	Reading Homework Pack	Reading Homework Pack	Reading Spellings Numeracy
Thursday	Shared Reading (Beginning early September)	Shared Reading (Beginning early September)	Reading Spellings Literacy
Friday	No homework	No homework	No homework

**Year One/Two classroom teacher sends out detailed information regarding homework throughout the year.**

\*In the third term, the format of Year Two homework alters in preparation for Year 3. Parents will be invited to a Transition Meeting where these changes will be discussed.

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## Year Three And Four Homework Timetable

Day	Year Three	Year Four
Monday	Reading Spellings Numeracy	Reading Spellings Numeracy
Tuesday	Reading Spellings Literacy	Reading Spellings Literacy
Wednesday	Reading Spellings Numeracy	Reading Spellings Numeracy
Thursday	Reading Spellings Literacy	Reading Spellings Literacy
Friday	No homework	No homework

**Always refer to your child's Homework Diary for any additional projects/activities.**

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## Year Five and Year Six Homework Timetable

Day	Year Five	Year Six
<b>Monday</b>	Reading Learning of Spellings & Tables Spelling Book Activities Numeracy	Reading Learning of Spellings & Tables Spelling Book Activities Numeracy
<b>Tuesday</b>	Reading Learning of Spellings & Tables Spelling Book Activities Literacy Times Tables/Mental Arithmetic	Reading Learning of Spellings & Tables Spelling Book Activities Literacy Times Tables/Mental Arithmetic
<b>Wednesday</b>	Reading Learning of Spellings & Tables Spelling Book Activities Numeracy	Reading Learning of Spellings & Tables Spelling Book Activities Numeracy
<b>Thursday</b>	Reading Spelling Corrections Literacy- Grammar Times Tables/Mental Arithmetic	Reading Learning of Grammar Rules Spelling Corrections Literacy Times Tables/Mental Arithmetic
<b>Friday</b>	No homework	Literacy and Numeracy (Jan-June)

**Always refer to your child's Homework Diary for any additional activities.**

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# Year Seven

## Homework Timetable

Day	Year Seven
<b>Monday</b>	Reading Learning of Spellings and Tables Learning of Grammar Rules Spelling Book Activities- Page 2 Numeracy *Confirmation
<b>Tuesday</b>	Reading Learning of Spellings and Tables Learning of Grammar Rules Spelling Book Activities- Page 3 Literacy Times Tables Book/Mental Arithmetic Book
<b>Wednesday</b>	Reading Learning of Spellings and Tables Learning of Grammar Rules Spelling Book Activities- Page 4 Numeracy
<b>Thursday</b>	Reading Spelling Corrections Tables Test Corrections Learning of Grammar Rules Literacy Times Tables Book/Mental Arithmetic Book
<b>Friday</b>	Literacy And Numeracy (Sept- Dec) <b>Optional</b>

\*Pupils are required to complete additional homework in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Always refer to your child's Homework Diary for any additional activities.**

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