

St. Patrick's Primary School



Homework Policy

Ratified by Board of Governors on 26th October, 2010.

Reviewed Annually.

Next Review Date: Summer, 2024.

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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 practise 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.

Content











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.

Occasionally pupils take home classwork that would benefit from being developed or completed at home.

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Creative Activities

Pupils are asked to complete a creative activity on a Thursday night. Below are some examples of creative activities that pupils might be asked to complete for homework:

-  Forest School/Outdoor learning
-  Sporting practice/exercise
-  Religious Education activities
-  Quizzes
-  Mindfulness activities
-  ICT tasks
-  Art and craft activities
-  Gathering resources
-  Research
-  Project work

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 our pupils as they move through the school. The length of time taken to complete homework will depend on a number of factors such as the activity and the pupil's age and ability. At St. Patrick's P.S., we strive to ensure that pupils have a healthy balance of structured homework and creative activities whilst allowing sufficient time for them to pursue extra-curricular interests and hobbies. Weekly homework tasks can be completed over the weekend, if preferred.

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

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Needs, we refer to Individual Education Plans relating to individual pupils.

If a pupil is experiencing difficulty with a particular aspect of the curriculum, additional work may be sent home. This will be agreed between the Class Teacher and parent/s.

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.

Assessment and Quality Feedback

Homework should be marked regularly by the Class Teacher in line with the school's Quality Feedback/Marking Policy. Feedback will be a combination of verbal and written comments with guidance on how to improve or develop learning.

Remote Learning

Teachers may set homework through [Seesaw](#), [Mathletics](#) or [Teams](#). Please refer to our [Remote Learning Policy](#) on our school website for more information.

The Role Of 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, computer games, etc, to disturb them.

Please ensure that your child's written homework is:

- ✓ Completed in a quiet environment within minimal distractions.
- ✓ **Checked, signed and dated by a parent or guardian.** This shows your child that home and school are working in partnership.

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We recognise that the process involved in completing homework and the quality of work produced as a result is much more important than the quantity completed.

In order for your child to benefit the most from completing homework tasks, please encourage them to use a dictionary, thesaurus, reference books, the Internet, family knowledge, etc., to assist them.

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 are consulted on homework through questionnaires, Information Sessions for Parents and Parent – Teacher Meetings.

Currently parents of pupils in 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 Learning Support Sheet.

Parents of pupils in Years 1 – 3 are invited to an Information Evening in August.

All other parents are invited to an Information Evening in September. The format of homework and the school's expectations of pupils and parents in relation to homework are outlined in detail at these sessions.

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.

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Homework Timetables are on display in each classroom for substitute teachers to refer to.

Homework will no longer be recorded daily by pupils in a Homework Diary. An outline of homework for the following week will be displayed on each class page of our school website.

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.

Monitoring And Review

This policy was ratified on: 26th October, 2010.

It was reviewed by staff: August, 2011,
August 2012,
27th August 2013,
September 2014,
27th August, 2015.
24th August, 2016.
22nd August, 2017.
20th August, 2018.
19th August, 2019.
19th August, 2020.
20th August, 2021.
11th May, 2022.
21st August, 2023.

It was reviewed by Governors on: Thursday, 19th December, 2013.
Tuesday, 2nd December, 2014.
Thursday, 10th December, 2015.
Thursday, 15th December, 2016.
Thursday, 27th March, 2018.
Wednesday, 27th February, 2019.
Thursday, 27th August, 2020.
Wednesday, 25th August, 2021.
Tuesday, 28th June, 2022.
Thursday, 15th June, 2023.

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Date of Next Review: Summer, 2024.

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Appendix One

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Year 1

All Homework books will be sent home on a Friday.

Nightly Homework – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	
Reading*	
Phonics	
Submission of homework:	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Nightly Homework - Thursday	
Creative activity	
Submission Day:	Friday

Weekly Homework	
Early Comprehension or Key Words	
Mathletics or Number Book	
Submission Day:	Thursday

*Reading may begin in January/February depending on each pupil's progress.

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Year 2

All Homework books will be sent home on a Friday.

Nightly Homework – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	
Reading Tricky Words	
Submission of homework:	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Nightly Homework - Thursday	
Creative activity	
Submission Day:	Friday

Weekly Homework	
Mental Maths Comprehension Book or Phonics Book Mathletics	
Submission Day:	Thursday

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Year 3

All Homework books will be sent home on a Friday.

Nightly Homework – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	
Reading Spelling Practice Tables Practice	
Submission of homework:	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Nightly Homework - Thursday	
Spelling Practice corrections (if applicable) Tables Practice corrections (if applicable) Creative activity	
Submission Day:	Friday

Weekly Homework	
Mental Arithmetic A and B Comprehension Book or English In Practice Mathletics	
Submission Day:	Thursday

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Year 4

All Homework books will be sent home on a Friday.

Nightly Homework – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	
Reading Spelling Practice Tables Practice	
Submission of homework:	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Nightly Homework - Thursday	
Spelling Practice corrections (if applicable) Tables Practice corrections (if applicable) Creative activity	
Submission Day:	Friday

Weekly Homework	
Mental Arithmetic A and B Comprehension Book or English In Practice Mathletics	
Submission Day:	Thursday

Possible Additional Homework
Learning of prayers/readings for Sacraments

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Year 5

All Homework books will be sent home on a Friday.

Nightly Homework – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	
Reading Spelling Practice Tables Practice	
Submission of homework:	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Nightly Homework - Thursday	
Spelling Practice corrections (if applicable) Tables Practice corrections (if applicable) Creative activity	
Submission Day:	Friday

Weekly Homework	
Mental Arithmetic A and B Comprehension Book or English In Practice Mathletics	
Submission Day:	Thursday

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Year 6

All Homework books will be sent home on a Friday.

Nightly Homework – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	
Reading Spelling Practice And Vocabulary Tables Practice	
Submission of homework:	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Nightly Homework - Thursday	
Spelling Practice corrections (if applicable) Tables Practice corrections (if applicable) Creative activity	
Submission Day:	Friday

Weekly Homework	
Mental Arithmetic A and B Comprehension Book or English In Practice Mathletics Learning of Numeracy and Literacy rules	
Submission Day:	Thursday

Possible Additional Homework	
Optional weekend homework Revision	

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Year 7

All Homework books will be sent home on a Friday.

Nightly Homework – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	
Reading Spelling Practice And Vocabulary Tables Practice	
Submission of homework:	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Nightly Homework - Thursday	
Spelling Practice corrections (if applicable) Tables Practice corrections (if applicable) Creative activity	
Submission Day:	Friday

Weekly Homework	
Mental Arithmetic A and B Comprehension Book or English In Practice Mathletics Learning of Numeracy and Literacy rules	
Submission Day:	Thursday

Possible Additional Homework	
Optional weekend homework Revision Confirmation preparation	

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