



HOMEWORK POLICYⁱ

1) WHY GIVE HOMEWORK?

- To re-enforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent/guardian
- 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 practise 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.

2) HOW OFTEN IS HOMEWORK GIVEN?

- Homework is assigned to each student on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. However, there are 2 exceptions:
 - a. If homework has been neglected during the week it may be completed on Friday.
 - b. Sometimes and at the discretion of the class teacher or 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:
 - a. Not completed their homework
 - b. Made a suitable effort
 - c. Presented untidy work
- Homework in June is at the discretion of the class teacher

3) WHAT IS THE CONTENT OF HOMEWORK?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks , revision, oral work 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, oral work, constant revision and learning is as important as written work.
- Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents/guardians can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned , ensuring this work is done well
- 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.

4) HOW MUCH (TIME) HOMEWORK?

The following are guidelines for the 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 times are only meant as a general guideline:

- **Junior Infants** – 10 minutes
- **Senior Infants** – 20 minutes
- **Rang 1 & 2** – 30 minutes
- **Rang 3 & 4** – 45 minutes
- **Rang 5 & 6** – 1 hour

5) HOW MUCH HELP SHOULD PARENTS/GUARDIANS GIVE?

- You, as parents/guardians, are the first, most important and most influential teacher of your own children.
- The care, attention and encouragement given by you, in a happy atmosphere, will lay the foundations for their future success.
- Parents/guardians should try to help their children with homework by:
 - a. providing them with a quiet place, suitable work surface and time to do their homework
 - b. preventing interruptions or distractions, e.g. T.V. or other children
 - c. praising and encouraging your children
 - d. helping your children to organise their work
 - e. checking your child's journal regularly
 - f. teaching them tables, spellings, information and listening to their reading both English and Irish

- Children should do written homework themselves and parents /guardians should only help when the child has difficulty - teaching your children to self-correct is a skill for life.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents/guardians 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/guardians should write a note to the class 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/guardian and child.

6) HOW OFTEN SHOULD PARENTS/GUARDIANS MONITOR HOMEWORK?

- Parents/guardians should check homework every evening
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in his/her homework journal and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- By helping your child and examining copies and spelling books, parents/guardians can familiarise themselves with the work that is being done in the classroom and can assess the child's progress.
- Signing the homework journal when homework is completed will encourage your child to complete homework to the best of their ability. The parental/guardian role is vital in your child's education.
- The homework journal is a vital means of communication so we request that all notes in the in homework journal be signed.

7) HOW OFTEN DO TEACHERS MONITOR HOMEWORK?

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers and mixed classes as we have in Barndarrig, 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.

8) WHEN SHOULD PARENTS/GUARDIANS 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 time spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

9) WHEN SHOULD HOMEWORK BE DONE?

- Each family situation is different. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched 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

REMEMBER

If homework is a stressful experience 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 formally adopted by the Board of Management on Tuesday, 08 October 2013.

ⁱ **PLEASE NOTE** - The homework policy set out above is only meant as a guideline and it may not always be possible to strictly adhere to this.