**Scoil na mBuachaillí Naomh Eoin Baiste**

**Homework Policy**

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**Why give homework?**

* To reinforce what the pupil learns during the day
* To provide a link between teacher and parent
* To develop a child’s concentration skills and to help 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 and set by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children’s ability and to provide opportunities for creativity and to develop the boys’ research skills.
* The boys 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. There are three exceptions:

-If homework has been neglected during the week

-In senior classes, some project work is undertaken at weekends

-Reading Recovery pupils may have some reading-related work to undertake

* 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, not made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

**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 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 – Up to 10 minutes

Senior Infants – Up to 20 minutes

Rang 1 & Rang 2 – Up to 30 minutes

Rang 3 & Rang 4 – Up to 40 minutes

Rang 5 & Rang 6 – Up to 60 minutes

Homework is generally given from Monday to Thursday. Some teachers may give all the homework early in the week and ask for its completion by Thursday or Friday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

**How much help should parents give?**

* Parents should try to help their boys with homework by:
	+ Arranging for them a suitable place and time to do their homework
	+ Preventing interruptions or distractions, like T.V, phones 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 (CAPER) is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it’s not enjoyable, the parent should seek advice from the teacher.

**How often should parents monitor homework?**

* Parents should check and sign a child’s homework journal (1st to 6th) every evening
* Infant parents sign their boy’s homework sheet(s)
* 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
* Please check that your boy’s records his homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed
* Other letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal. Please check your child’s journal for such notes on a regular basis.

**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 journal 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 the boys 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 he cannot understand some aspect
* If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

**When should homework be done?**

* Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh. However, many children need a break/snack before starting homework
* Homework should never be left until morning time before school

# 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.

The Board of Management ratified this policy on the 9 November 2017.

It is subject for review when necessary.

Signed: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (Chairperson, Board of Management)

Signed: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**(Principal)