

St. Fergal's National School

Homework Policy



St. Fergal's N.S.

Homework Policy

Definition of Homework:

Homework refers to any work or activities assigned to students as an extension of classroom work.

Aims of Homework:

- Homework encourages and develops good study habits, independent learning, initiative and responsibility.
- It helps students to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own and it prepares them for secondary school.
- It also allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills and work done in class.
- It also promotes positive attitudes toward school because homework allows students to understand that learning can also take place outside the classroom.
- Homework can involve parents and family in the pupil's work, to their mutual benefit.
- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It provides a link between teacher and parent and it encourages parental involvement in their child's education.
- It can be used to practice what has been done in school or can be designed to challenge children's abilities and provide opportunities for creativity.

Homework along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects, portfolios, diagnostic tests and standardized tests all lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of a pupil's progress and development as they move through the school.

There are four main types of homework:

1. Assignments to reinforce and consolidate skills acquired in the classroom-learning and written tasks.
2. Preparation of assignments to help students get ready for future classroom activities.
3. Extension assignments such as project work.
4. Reading.

Frequency and Duration of Homework:

Home work will be given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Individual teachers decide on amount of homework which they consider appropriate for their class.

OR

Homework may be given on Monday for the coming week.

Guideline Target Times for Homework:

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. It is important to remember that it is the quality of homework not the quantity that matters.

- Junior Infants. 0-10 minutes
- Senior Infants Up to 20 minutes
- Rang 1,2 Up to 30 minutes
- Rang 3,4 Up to 45 minutes
- Rang 5,6 Up to 60 minutes

These are guidelines; some children may complete the work in less time. However, if your child is regularly taking more than the upper limit guideline time, please confer with your child's teacher.

Possible Content:

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:

Junior Classes (Junior Infants - 2nd class)	Senior Classes (3rd - 6th class)
Rhymes/Stories	Tables
Reading	Irish and English Spellings
Spelling	Irish and English Reading
Maths	Written work in Maths, English and Gaeilge
Tables	Pieces to be 'learned by heart'
Practice colouring, cutting or writing letters or numbers	S.E.S.E. /S.P.H.E. /Religion
Religion (Grow in Love)	Project work
	Drawing /Colouring

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.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Role of the Principal:

The Principal will:

- Communicate the homework policy to parents
- Support teachers in the implementation of the policy

Role of the Teacher:

Teachers are responsible for:

- Setting homework based on the recommended homework policy.
- Pitching difficulty level of homework to the needs of the class.
- Consult with the Learning Support Teachers regarding needs of children availing of support.
- Correcting Assignments. Monitoring homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties.
- Notify parents/guardians if homework is regularly incomplete.
- Providing feedback and help if necessary.

Role of Parents/ Guardians:

Parents are encouraged to:

- Provide a suitable place and time, free from distractions, interruptions, television/screens and phones.
- Assist the child if necessary but not doing the homework for the child.
- Check all homework has been completed.
- Encourage reading, silent/independent and out loud.
- Encourage their child and praise them when they have completed assignments.
- Communicate with teacher if the child encounters difficulty, has spent an undue time at homework or cannot complete work due to special circumstances.

Role of Students:

Students are expected to:

- Write assignments neatly and clearly in their diaries on a daily basis. Teachers may put the class homework on Class Dojo.
- Ensure that they take home the relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments neatly, honestly and to the best of their ability.
- Work independently and ask for help only when needed.
- Read on a daily basis.
- Present all written work neatly.

How often should teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally, teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, 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 a week.
- Some items of homework (class work) may be checked by the children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be useful as part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem. It also encourages children to follow directions, focus on task(s) in question and to self-assess.
- Where weekly homework is given, it will be corrected when it is due.

What happens when homework is not done?

- Teacher speaks to the child to find out reason/s and makes a note of the reason/s given.
- Homework essential to class progress may be completed during school day or that night at the teacher's discretion.
- Parents are contacted through Class Dojo/phone call /homework journal if homework is consistently not done or properly completed.
- If the problem persists, a meeting is arranged between the class teacher and the parents and hopefully a solution can be found.
- If over a certain period of time the agreed solution is not working, a meeting is arranged between the parents, class teacher and Principal.

Absences:

- If a child is absent from school, missed homework is not given when he/she returns.
- If a child is ill for a period of time, missed homework will not be sent home.
- If a child is absent for any other reasons e.g. enforced long absences as a result of a broken limb, work essential to progress in class may be sent home.
- All the above will be done in consultation with the child's parents. (Through Class Dojo/ telephone)

Points to Note:

- The nature of homework assigned may change due to school activities during the year.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the Principal or the class teacher, children are given 'homework off' (Homework Pass) as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion or special effort made by the class or an individual.
- Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day and parents are encouraged to read to younger children every day.
- 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.
- Where exceptional circumstances prevent the completion of homework, please forward an explanatory note in your child's homework journal or on Class Dojo

Ratification:

Ratified by the Board of Management: Monday 6th December 2021

Signed: Joe Behan
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 06/12/2021

Signed: Tom Sargent
Principal

Date: 06/12/2021

To be reviewed in 2024 or as deemed necessary by the Principal and Staff of St. Fergal's National School.