



St. Patrick's NS Strangsmills

Homework policy

Revised: 2023

www.strangsmillsns.ie
16875G

Homework Policy

Introduction

This policy was devised by teachers in consultation with pupils, parents/guardians and approved by the Board of Management. During its initial drafting, parents were consulted through the Parents Association and children were consulted through the Student Council. The purpose of the policy is to provide information and guidelines on homework to all staff members, Board of Management members, parents and guardians.

Why give homework?

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- 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.

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.

There are two exceptions:

- if homework has been neglected during the week
- in senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher children are given "homework off" as a treat, as acknowledgment of some special occasion or if a subject or homework pass is given.

****Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.**

What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading, learning 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.
 - Active or mindfulness homework may also be given on occasion, linked to different initiatives being undertaken in the school.

How much (time) 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 15 minutes (reading, phonics, word boxes, maths activity, handwriting activity or active homework)
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes (reading, phonics, word boxes, maths/english written activity, or active homework)
Rang 1/2	Up to 30 minutes (reading, spellings (Irish spelling from term 2 of 2 nd class), tables, written work – maths/English, religion, or active homework)
Rang 3/4	Up to 40 minutes (reading and spellings- English & Irish, tables, written work – maths/English/Irish, or active homework)
Rang 5/6	Up to 50 minutes (reading and spelling – English & Irish, verbs, tables, written work-maths/English/Irish, research in SPHE/SESE and religion, or active homework)

Pupils should:

- Write homework accurately in homework diary.
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly and know their oral work.

What help should parents give?

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account the child's age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from television or other distractions.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, and writing/colouring equipment.
- If your child is having difficulty with homework, assist them in completing the task but be sure to communicate these difficulties to the teacher if homework is too difficult or taking too long.
- Sign the homework journal or homework sheet to show that homework has been checked.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening.
- 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.
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.

Throughout the years it has become very evident that parental involvement in children's' work is invaluable. In general, children whose parents show an interest in their school/homework make much better progress in school.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally teachers like to check some homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers it is not always possible to do so. All items of homework are checked at least 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.

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 she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- If the time 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, 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 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.

Ratification and communication

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on June 27th 2023. It will be reviewed again in 2025/2026.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Chairperson of BOM