

# Scoil Thomáis, Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15

## Homework Policy



Homework serves an important purpose in engaging parents/guardians in the formal education of their child: it consolidates the principle that teachers and parents are joint educators. The school's homework policy was reviewed in the school year 2021/22 following consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The policy outlines the roles and responsibilities of individuals and offers advice and guidance to parents to support their child when completing homework.

### Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Teachers** assign homework because it helps in reinforcing what has been taught in class and because it encourages some children at least to work independently at their own rate and in their own time.
- The **teacher** will set a little less than s/he decides the majority of the class can do comfortably, but will insist that what is done is done thoroughly. The teacher will ensure that homework is checked regularly.
- Each pupil from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class has a Journal in which homework is recorded.
- **Parents/guardians should read and sign their child's Journal each night and check his/her copies and/or homework sheets to ensure that s/he has done all homework carefully.**
- Children will not be allowed to start homework in school: it encourages rushed work and makes it very difficult for parents/guardians to deal with children who say "I did my homework in school".
- Homework should take no more than 10 mins in Infants, 20-30 minutes for pupils in 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> classes, 30-45 minutes for pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> classes & 45-60 minutes for pupils in 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> classes.
- Pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class have an English spelling test on Fridays. Pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class have an Irish spelling test, also on Fridays.
- **Parents/guardians will sign child's spelling copy after the Friday test and ensure corrections are done.**
- As a general rule, homework will not be given at weekends: however, from time to time, pupils in senior classes will have projects to do which may extend over a weekend.
- From time to time, teachers may use homework vouchers (for written homework) as a reward.

- For pupils with special educational needs, the Class Teacher and Learning Support Teacher will liaise regarding homework.

**Advice for Parents:**

- ✓ Set aside a regular time, not late at night, for homework.
- ✓ Ensure that your child is sitting properly at a table in a quiet place.
- ✓ Homework time should include time for oral as well as written work and also library reading. It should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- ✓ Encourage your child to keep books and copies clean and tidy.
- ✓ Homework should be your child's own work.
- ✓ Be available to help and show an interest in what is being done, especially if your child is working independently.
- ✓ Praise your child's efforts.
- ✓ Endeavour to stay calm when working with your child. If however, you feel yourself becoming impatient – stop – don't threaten – this will only have a negative effect.
- ✓ Let teachers know by writing a note in your child's Journal if homework cannot be done. If your child is **regularly having problems with homework, make an appointment to see the teacher.**

**Reading Homework:      Stages:**

1. ***Silent Reading:*** Child should read the page silently a few times so s/he can concentrate on the meaning as s/ he reads at his/her own pace and has a chance to use the context to guess words.
2. ***Discussion:*** Child closes the book. Discuss what has been read with your child (who, when, where, what, why, what if, emotions of characters, what do you think will happen next) in the story e.g. Red Riding Hood.  
 Who was in bed?  
 When did Red Riding Hood meet the wolf?  
 Where did Red Riding Hood meet the wolf?  
 What was in the basket?  
 Why was Red Riding Hood carrying a basket?  
 What might have happened if the woodcutter had not come?  
 Was Granny angry, afraid or happy when she saw the wolf?  
 What do you think will happen next?
3. ***Oral Reading:*** Child reads aloud this time.
4. ***Discussion:*** Close the book: discuss again with him/her as each time comprehension is being developed.

5. **Use a dictionary** in more senior classes.

### **Reading for Enjoyment: Suggestions for Parents**

1. Read to your child and with your child to improve fluency and expression as well as enjoyment.
2. Take turns reading from library books.
3. Join the local library.
4. Children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Classes should have a library book which they read aloud for about 10 – 15 minutes. 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes should be able to read library books silently but care must be taken that less able pupils are in fact reading and following the story. Use questions (who, when, where, why, what if) to check this.

### **Spelling. Look, say, cover, write**

Learn the words, cover the words and write them, check.

### **Maths**

- Make sure you use the same method as the teacher uses if you are helping your child e.g. Subtraction, Long Division.
- Use opportunities at home to encourage mathematical thinking and language, i.e. telling the time, counting money etc

### **Parents: General Information and Suggestions**

- Play games – Ludo, Snakes and Ladders, Draughts, Scrabble, Card games. Develops language, number bonds and helps to train the child to concentrate.
- Help to develop, then support, your child's interest in a hobby (e.g. stamp collecting, photography, animals, taking apart and putting things back together, woodwork, model building, cooking).
- Television: Parents are often concerned about how much viewing time should be allowed. The reality is that all children watch TV and in moderation this is not a bad thing. Children can learn a lot and language can be enhanced through television. Children in senior classes should be aware of what is going on in the world – encourage them to watch and talk about news items. This will add to their general knowledge and command of language. Watch programmes with your child and discuss them. Encourage child to select a programme or two to watch and then switch off. Discourage channel-hopping. Do not allow children to watch television while doing homework.
- Following a shared experience with your child (a holiday, trip to the zoo, visit to relatives, sporting event, TV programme), discuss the event with him/her. This will help to improve communication and thinking skills and will broaden your child's vocabulary and background of experience – all of these are essential to your child's development.

Ratified by the Board of Management at its' meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Signed: *Brian Kealy*, Chairperson