Scoil Phádraig, Corduff, Co. Monaghan 19736H

**Homework Policy:**

In Scoil Phádraigwe believe homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments. Homework is seen as a positive element of the child’s schooling. All homework given will be of sound educational value, and no homework will be given simply for the sake of giving homework. If homework is a stressful experience on a regular basis between parent and child something is wrong. This defeats the purpose of homework and needs to be rectified by communication and strategies between school and home.

**Why give homework?**

To benefit pupil learning;

To reinforce and consolidate what the child has done during the day

To develop independent study skills;

To instill a sense of self-discipline in a child;

To develop concentration skills and to develop a work ethic

To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes;

To involve parents as a positive element of the child’s schooling;

To strengthen links between home and school.

Children are expected to do their homework to their best of their ability-no more, no less.

Homework has a particular part to play in helping children to learn.

It should--

* Be part of a carefully thought-out learning programme;
* Have a purpose, such as allowing children to complete a task which they have begun in school, or giving them the opportunity to apply what they have learned in other situations.

**What is the content of homework?**

Homework might consist of revision of, practice in, or expansion of, work already done in the classroom, and not contain any new or unfamiliar material;

Homework might be varied and not limited to reading/ writing;

Be suitable to the capabilities of the children—they should be able to complete homework within a reasonable timeframe (see suggested times);

Be properly explained to children in advance;

Be checked by the teacher, with credit given for personal effort.

In the allocation of homework, the class teacher bears in mind any educational, social, family or financial factors that might affect the pupil’s performance of his or her assignments. Parents will supervise children’s homework, check and sign it, ensure that it is neat and in keeping with the standard of their work in school. Should a pupil experience continued difficulty in the completion of homework assignments, parents/ guardians are encouraged to bring that fact to the attention of the class teacher, and a meeting between the parents/ guardians and the class teacher may be arranged to resolve the problem. The Principal might be present at such a meeting if either or both parties so wish.

All classes get homework. Homework is given every evening, except Fridays/ weekends. However, at the teacher’s discretion, exceptions can be made—e.g. for a child’s birthday. All pupils do not get the same homework: provision is made for children with special needs, dyslexia, etc. The content is varied and balanced between oral, reading, and written work. This balance may not always be possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However it should be noted that homework time spent devoted to reading and learning is just as important as time devoted to written work. Homework is seen as reinforcement, revision and expansion of work done in class. It should not contain any new or unfamiliar material. Depending on the age of the pupil, it can be project work, with use of reference books, encyclopedias, library books, etc.

It can be given following the lesson or/and at the end of the day. Parents are expected to sign the homework journal nightly. Homework journals may be used from 1st Class upwards.

Homework that is not completed must be done the following night or

during school break times at the discretion of the teacher.

**Home-School Links**

It is important that there are close links between parents and the school with regard to homework. Open communication between the class teacher and the parent is vital for successful homework.

Parents have an important role to play in (a) encouraging their child’s work, (b) observing their work, (c) looking over completed work. It would also be helpful if parents sign homework diaries.

Each family situation is different e.g both parents working, childminders etc but parents can help their children by—

* setting suitable times for doing homework that take account of other needs, such as recreation and family circumstances;
* setting a reasonable amount of time for homework (see suggested times);
* making sure children have the proper physical conditions for doing homework: a quiet time, a clear table, helpful books such as dictionaries and no television! Homework should not be left until the morning before school.
* Getting in touch with the school at an early stage if the child is having difficulties with homework.

**Time Recommended:**

These are recommended times for a child with average ability working to task:

Infant Classes – not to exceed 15 minutes;

1st and 2nd Classes– not to exceed 30 minutes;

3rd and 4th – not to exceed 45 minutes;

5th and 6th –not to exceed 1 hour.

Where difficulties arise in relation to completion of homework parents/ guardians should contact the class teacher without delay.

Written notification should be submitted to the class teacher in the event of the pupil not being able to complete assignments for any reason.

**Options for** **Correction of Homework**:

All homework given should be examined by the teacher, and corrected by the teacher, or by the pupil under the guidance of the teacher following class discussion. At times, correction can be done by fellow pupils, following class discussion and swapping copies: this will instill honesty and self-discipline in children, and will be constantly monitored by the teacher.

**Monitoring/Evaluation**:

This is done by (a) daily correction, (b) discussion at parent/teacher meetings, (c) teacher-testing designed to ascertain if homework is achieving its objectives.

**Success Criteria**:

(a) Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils;

(b) Feedback from teachers, pupils, parents.

**Implementation:**

This policy applies from January 2014.

**Ratification and Communication:**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in December 2013 and a copy will be given to all parents and new enrolments every year.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fr. Brendan McCague

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Pauline Clarke

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_