**Homework Policy**

It is a matter of school policy that individual teachers decide on the amount of homework that they consider appropriate. Children usually get homework every night from Monday to Thursday; it is rarely given on a Friday. The amount of work given varies from class to class but below is a guideline on how long homework should be taking.

Junior/Senior Infants = 15 – 20 minutes.

1st/2nd class = 20 – 30 minutes.

3rd/4th class = 30 – 40 minutes.

5th/6th class = 30 – 60 minutes.

If the homework is consistently taking the child more than these times, please contact the class teacher.

Homework is given in the school to:

* Reinforce work that has already been completed in school.
* Encourage and foster good study habits at home.
* Develop independence while studying.
* Indicate to parents the child’s progress in school.

We would encourage parents to follow a number of strategies when interacting with their child’s homework at home.

* By all means help and encourage the child but avoid doing the actual homework for them.
* Create an environment for them that is conducive to work, i.e. quiet, comfortable area, away from electronic devices.
* Try where possible to begin and complete the homework as soon as the child arrives home from school. Avoid doing work late in the evening.
* Monitor the child’s homework and sign the copy or journal on completion of the work.
* Communicate with the child particularly in the oral and reading aspect of homework.
* Give them gentle encouragement and praise when they do something well.
* As already stated, if a problem develops, contact the teacher through a written note.
* Reading should be heard aloud from the children at home by an adult every night. The importance of this cannot be over emphasised.
* Presentation of work is also of great importance and every effort should be made to ensure pupils consistently work to the best of their ability.
* In the case where homework is consistently not complete or of poor quality, parents will be informed. However, this a very rare issue generally.
* There will be no written homework for the first two weeks and last two weeks of the school year.

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