

Carrigeen National School,

 Carrigeen,

 Co. Kilkenny.

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**Homework Policy**

1) **Why give homework?**

* To re-inforce what the child learns during the day.
* To provide a link between home and school.
* To develop a child’s concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
* It is a useful tool for assessing whether children really understand what has been taught in class and it assesses their presentation skills.
* It establishes a routine which is a good preparation for second level education.
* Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done.

2) **How often is homework given?**

* Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.
* Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, children are given ‘homework off’ as a reward for good behaviour or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
* **If a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work, it may be completed as extra the following night. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure this homework is done. Unfinished homework will not be done in school.**
* **If a child persistently fails to do homework, parents will be informed by a note home in the homework journal that must be signed and returned to the class teacher.**

3) **What is the content of homework?**

* 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 reading, phonics, 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 thus ensuring this work is done well.

4) **How much time for homework?**

The following are **guidelines** for time spent at homework. Differences in ability will be taken into account-different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Children experiencing difficulties in areas of Numeracy and Literacy will have homework differentiated if needed. 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 & Senior Infants ……… 10-20 minutes
Rang 1&2 …………………………. 30 to 40 minutes**
**Rang 3 &4 ………………………… 40-50 minutes**
**Rang 5 & 6 ……………………….. 50minutes-1 hour** **20minutes**

5) **How much help should parents give?**

* Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
	+ Providing them with a suitable place and time to do
	their homework
	+ Preventing interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or
	other children.
* Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
* If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
* Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it’s not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.

6**) How often should parents monitor homework**?

* Parents should check the child’s homework every evening.
* In middle and senior standards the homework journal should be signed if requested to do so by the teacher.
* 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.
* Only notes regarding homework between parents and teachers should be written in the homework journal. All other notes re absences/sicknesses etc. which may contain private information should be put in separate notes.
* Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
* Other notes/newsletters to parents will be folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal. Please check your child’s journal for such notes on a regular basis.

7) **How often do teachers monitor homework?**

* Teachers endeavour to check homework on a daily basis. However, in large classes it is not possible to check each child’s journal every day.
* A variety of methods are used to correct homework depending on the content and the age of the children:

e.g.Teacher correction, Class correction, Class discussion, Children exchange work for correction, Children write answers e.g. spellings, tables

* Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

8) **When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?**

* At parent/teacher meetings.
* When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
* When your child cannot do homework on a regular basis because she/he has encountered some difficulty.

9) **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.
* If necessary it should be supervised by an adult.
* Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

**REMEMBER- IF HOMEWORK IS A STRESSFUL EXPERIENCE, SOMETHING IS WRONG. THIS LEADS TO POOR LEARNING. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN REGULARLY, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLASS TEACHER.**

**Appendix 1- No-Homework Note to Parents**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has not completed all of his/her homework on more than one occasion. As per our school homework policy, no opportunity is given during breaktimes for children to do homework in school. ***In order for homework to be of benefit to children, all assigned work must be completed at home.***

***IMPORTANT-*** If homework or part of the child’s homework is not completed, a note must be written in the child’s homework diary. This will ensure clear communication between parent and teacher.

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| **DATES OF HOMEWORK NOT COMPLETED** |
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**Please sign below and return to class teacher as acknowledgement of receipt.**

Parent/Guardian-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ -Class Teacher

-Principal

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Principal/Secretary of Board of Management