



# *Dunboyne Senior Primary School*

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## Homework Policy

### 1) Why give homework?

- To re-enforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop the child's concentration skills and 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

### 2) How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays to Thursdays inclusive. Weekend homework may be given or if homework has not been completed or is of an unacceptable standard or if project work is being undertaken.

- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.

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

- Homework may be differentiated according to the individual needs and abilities of children who receive additional support from learning support, resource teachers and language teachers.
- 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.
- Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents play an important role in listening to reading, tables, poetry etc.

### 4) 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:

Third Class to Fourth Class 1 hour approx.

Fifth Class to Sixth Class 1 -2 hours approx.

### 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 electronic equipment
- 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.

**6) 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.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal) with the exception of absent notes which should be sent on a separate note for the purpose of filing.

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

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or 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.

**8) 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 being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

**This policy will be reviewed at regular intervals.**

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

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Chairman, Board of Management.**