

Marymount N.S. The Rower.

Homework Policy

The home and school play complementary roles in children's learning. Nowhere is this more evident than in the area of homework. This Homework Policy was jointly formulated by the parents and teachers and sanctioned by the Board of Management and will be of benefit to all concerned.

A) The reasons for Homework:

- As a link between home and school. Strengthening the partnership between parents/guardians, teachers and children.
- Parents/guardians can become actively involved in the child's formal education, observe the child's progress and identify any problems that the child may have.
- To evaluate and build on work undertaken in the classroom.
- To give children the opportunity to memorise and study areas already taught in school, e.g. History, Geography, Poetry, Spellings, Reading, Tables etc.
- To make use of materials and sources of information that might not be accessible in the classroom.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.

B) 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, 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 ensuring this work is done well.

C) Frequency of Homework:

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:
 - If homework has been neglected during the week
 - In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends
- 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
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.
- Less /no homework for special occasions / representing school for events or unusually good weather.

D) How much time for 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:

Junior Infants	10 – 15 minutes -	Mostly reading Word Boxes or maybe finish class assignment
Senior Infants	10 – 15 minutes -	Mostly reading Word Boxes or maybe finish class assignment
Rang 1	20 - 25 minutes	
Rang 2	20 - 25 minutes	
Rang 3	30- 45 minutes	
Rang 4	30- 45 minutes	
Rang 5	60 minutes	
Rang 6	60 minutes	

At the beginning of each school year teachers will give an explanatory note outlining general homework format for the class.

E) 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
 - To prevent 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
- Paired 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, paired reading should not be done.

F) How much help should parents give?

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)
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed

G) 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 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 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.
- Teacher will monitor the journal as an important communication tool between parent and teacher.

H) 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.

I) 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, however, some children need a break before starting homework
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school

J) Pupils with learning difficulties:

Parents/guardians of children with learning difficulties should keep in close contact with the teacher/learning support teacher regarding any difficulties encountered.

If these children are working at class level, parents/guardians are asked to report to the teacher if the child is spending an inappropriate amount of time at homework (e.g. by writing a note in the Homework Journal).

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on _____ 2013.

Signature: _____

Date: _____
