

Homework Policy **St. Patrick's N.S., Stackallen.**

Aims

1. To benefit pupil learning by reinforcing work done in class.
2. To develop study skills.
3. To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes.
4. To strengthen links between home and school, as parents notice difficulties, which may have been missed in school.
5. To develop independent working skills.
6. To raise awareness of difficulties of the children, as the work is completed independently, with no input from other children.

Homework

1. Homework consolidates work which has already been done in class.
2. The amount of time spent doing homework varies e.g. Junior/Senior Infants maximum of 10 minutes, 1st/2nd & 3rd Class 15 minutes, 4th & 5th Class 20 minutes 6th Class 30-40 minutes.
3. All assigned homework should be written in the child's journal and this should be signed by a parent/guardian each night on completion of same.
4. Homework both written and oral should be given in reasonable quantities on a regular basis and parents are requested to check and see that it is neatly executed and fully completed.
5. If for some reason, homework cannot be completed, a signed note stating this must be sent to the class teacher.
6. Should a child regularly fail to do his/her homework the class teacher will bring the matter to the parent/guardians' attention by a written note in the child's journal.
7. No homework is given at weekends, and at the teacher's discretion on birthdays and other special days.
8. It is expected that pupils complete all homework. Children with learning difficulties will be given differentiated homework tasks.
9. Tables and spellings will be given nightly from First to 6th Class.
10. Homework given will be corrected by the class teacher in so far as it is possible, self corrected or in certain circumstances, corrected by another pupil.
11. Homework is seen as a way of training pupils in independent study.

Tables

1. All classes 1st to 6th do tables each day as part of mental / oral maths.
2. Tables test to be carried out once a week.
3. Look for speed in response to tables in 3rd – 6th classes.
4. Mental maths and tables games will also be used to develop speed.

Spellings

1. Spellings are part of nightly homework from Senior Infants (after Christmas CVC and tricky words) – 6th Class.
2. Irish spellings each night as part of homework from 2nd – 6th Class.
3. Test in spellings Irish / English weekly. This can take several forms and teachers should consider using different methods for testing spellings.
4. It is recommended that the teacher record results.

Spellings in Junior Classes

1. Spellings to be phonically based as far as possible. (The junior classes, Junior Infants to 2nd Class would follow the Jolly Phonics programme.)
2. Spellings from need.

Spellings in Middle/Senior Classes

1. 3rd & 4th Class will use Brendan Culligan's commonly misspelled words from "Improving your child's spelling"
2. 5th & 6th Class will use Section 5 & 6 from Fallons Spelling Book
3. Spellings from different sources (history, geography).
4. Irish phrases.

Guidelines for Parents/ Guardians

1. Set aside a quiet regular time, sitting at a table. Make sure that electronic devices such as televisions, laptops, mobile phones, radios etc are not part of the homework routine.
2. Where possible, make sure that homework is completed as soon after school as possible.
3. Encourage your child to keep copies neat and tidy and to complete work to the best of their ability, using best handwriting.
4. As your child gets older, he/ she will work more independently, but be available for assistance with problems.
5. Try not to get irritated with your child. Frustration will only lead to conflict and have a negative effect.
6. If your child has persistent problems, let the teacher know through a quick chat or a note in the homework notebook.
7. If your child is unable to complete work for any reason, make sure you tell the teacher or send a note into school.
8. If you find the homework is taking longer than the recommended time, let the teacher know.

Responsibilities:

It is up to the individual class teacher and parents/guardians to ensure homework is completed to a satisfactory standard. Parents/guardians to notify the school of problems with homework.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairperson: _____

Date: