

## **HOMEWORK**

### **WHY?**

1. To give parents an opportunity to be the co-educators of their children.
2. To give parents an insight into work being done at school.
3. To involve parents in the school lives of their children.
4. To foster positive academic home-school links.
5. To reinforce work done in school.
6. To foster the discipline of learning.
7. To teach pupils to learn independently.

### **WHAT?**

1. Homework should reflect work already being done in class.
2. Content of homework should be such that even a child who finds school work challenging should be able to attempt it.

### **HOW?**

- ◆ Homework should be done in a quiet environment with as little disruption as possible.
- ◆ Parents/Guardians are expected to check that their daughter has completed her homework and should then sign her journal.
- ◆ Equal importance and emphasis should be placed on reading, discussion and learning as is placed on written or practical work.
- ◆ Reading should be heard by an adult every 'school night'.
- ◆ While parents/guardians are encouraged to supervise their daughter's homework and help if necessary, they should not do her work for her, as this is counter-productive.
- ◆ If parents feel that their daughter is having a difficulty with a particular aspect of homework, we would ask that they put a note in their daughter's journal to this effect.
- ◆ If homework is not done or is incomplete it should be finished the next night at teachers' discretion.
- ◆ Written genuine reasons for incomplete or unfinished assigned homework should be given to the class teacher by parents/guardians
- ◆ Homework is not **normally** given on a Friday.

- ◆ On other occasions a teacher may not give homework e.g. school tour days, as a special treat etc. These occasions are at the discretion of each individual teacher.
- ◆ Neatness and cleanliness are essential parts of written homework and children should take pride in their work.

## **HOW LONG?**

In general pupils should spend approximately the following times\* on homework: -

1. Infants	15 minutes
2. First	20 minutes
3. Second Classes	25 minutes
4. Third Class	30 minutes
5. Fourth Class	40 minutes
6. Fifth	50 minutes
7. Sixth Classes	1 hour

\* These times are only a guideline. Sometimes parents may need to allow longer time if they feel it necessary. However, if homework is regularly taking longer than these guideline times please notify the class teacher. Any particular problems or worries about homework should be brought to the teacher's attention as early as possible in the school year.

## **REWARDS**

1. Rewarded by teacher in her own way e.g. written and verbal praise, stickers, homework passes.
2. Parents informed.
3. Homework tracker to be used in Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class. Homework tracker should be displayed on the door of the classroom. ( See Appendix A.)

## **SANCTIONS**

1. Incomplete homework with no genuine reason must be completed the following night and/or the weekend.
2. Parents will be informed if problems persist.
3. Pupils will be sent to Principal's office if there is an ongoing problem with homework.

# **CONTENT**

What should pupils be doing for homework? In some circumstances homework may be adjusted to cater for an individual child's learning ability. Below is a guideline to what pupils might expect for homework in the various classes. Not all of these activities are given every night, especially in Senior classes.

## **JUNIOR INFANTS:**

Work on Numbers  
Letters  
Word walls with Sight Words and new vocabulary  
(as year progresses)  
Reading (as year progresses)

## **SENIOR INFANTS:**

Word walls with Sight Words and new vocabulary  
Basic writing  
Basic number work  
Reading  
Library Books

## **FIRST CLASS:**

English reading  
English spellings  
Writing sentences  
Text/Workbooks  
Tables  
Maths  
Practical Work (Seeking Information)

## **SECOND CLASS:**

English reading  
Irish reading  
Writing exercises  
Text/Workbooks  
Learning Spellings and Tables  
Maths  
Practical Work

## **THIRD –SIXTH CLASSES:**

English/Irish reading  
English/Irish spellings  
Tables/Oral Maths  
Written activities in various subjects

Written Mathematics activities  
Practical Work (Projects)\*

**\* Project work is not information simply downloaded from computers. Handwritten exercises and evidence of research i.e. homework should also be included.**

**Equal importance should be given to oral and written homework.**

Ratified by the Board of Management of St. Brigid's GNS on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

**Appendix A – Homework Tracker**

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Month: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Name of Child	Homework not completed	Reason	Signed (Child)	Date completed
