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| St. Francis B.N.S |
| Homework Policy 2023 |
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**Homework Policy**

**Rationale**

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in St. Francis BNS we regard homework as important for the following reasons:

* It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class
* It provides a link between teacher and parent
* To develop a child’s concentration, independence and study skills

**Type of homework:**

* Homework will always be revision of work covered in class, but in

Senior classes, research of new material for projects may be given.

* At all times individual needs of children will be catered for when

giving homework.

**How often is homework given?**

* Homework is given on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays leaving the weekend free for family activities.
* Homework missed due to illness does not normally have to be completed. Schoolwork will not be assigned for absences.
* 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 completed their homework or has not made a suitable effort.

**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, 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.

**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:  
  
*Junior Infants*  
Maximum time homework should take: 10 mins.  
No formal written homework given in Junior Infants.  
Children are sometimes asked to bring in objects or pictures related to class topics.  
In the 2 and 3 terms parents are asked to do shared reading with their children. The children take home books to ‘read’ with parents. Parents are also asked to work with their children on basic sight vocabulary (lists provided by teacher)

*Senior Infants*  
Maximum time homework should take : 10 – 15 mins.  
Reading to be completed nightly with parent’s assistance and supervision.  
Reading record to be signed by parents to indicate that homework has been done.  
Unfinished class work may be sent home to be completed.  
  
*First Class*  
Maximum time homework should take: 25 mins.  
September: Reading and spelling only.  
October – June: Reading  
Spellings  
Tables - addition  
Maths

*Second Class*  
Maximum time homework should take: 30 mins.  
Tables- addition and subtraction  
Maths:  
Reading: 2 – 4 pages  
Spelling: 3 – 5 per night  
Written work from time to time, mainly finishing off workbooks / stories.  
  
*Third Class*  
Maximum time homework should take: 40 mins.  
Tables- multplication  
Spelling: 5 or 6 ( English and Irish )  
Maths:  
English: 3 – 5 sentences ( Skills Book or equivalent )  
Reading: 1 or 2 pages  
Research / project work from time to time.  
  
*Fourth Class*  
Maximum time homework should take: 50 mins.  
Spellings: English and Irish  
Maths:  
Tables- multiplication and division  
2 pieces of written work  
Reading  
Research / project work from time to time.  
 *Fifth Class (Journal)*  
Maximum time homework should take: 1 hour  
( less at beginning of year )  
Fifth class homework is viewed as a form of preparation for homework in Secondary School. We often give homework that will not be requested from the boys for a week or more.  
Pupils learn to organise homework time  
i.e. 20 / 20 / 20 rule applies  
20 mins learning (sp. tables, poetry etc. )  
20 mins. Maths  
20 mins. Written work  
  
*Sixth Class (Journal)*  
Maximum time homework should take: 1 hr. 15 mins.  
2 pieces of written work, which may include some reading.  
Spelling in English and Irish  
Maths and tables ( 20 mins. approx.)  
A piece of learning most nights ( poetry etc.)  
From time to time projects and research may be assigned. This work will be spread over a number of nights / weeks.  
Corrections from previous work and tests do not constitute part of homework time. Unfinished work in school may be given in order for each child to keep up to date with class work.

Children with Additional Educational Needs

* Where a pupil receives homework from their SET teacher, the class teacher and SET will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive. Homework should not exceed the times indicated above.
* Homework for pupils in Suaimhneas is at the discretion of the class teacher in collaboration with parents

**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
* endeavouring to prevent interruptions or distractions to the work, 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.
* If a child has substantial difficulty completing a particular task within a reasonable period of time (15 minutes), the task should be left uncompleted so as not to cause frustration and anxiety for the child. A note explaining the difficulty should be sent to teacher through Aladdin Connect so that the problem can be addressed the following day.
* 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.

**Expectations of Pupils**

It is expected that pupils will:

* Return their homework on time
* Complete and present their homework to the best of their ability
* Appreciate that study tasks and learning spellings and tables are as important as written tasks.
* Have a note to sent to school via Aladdin Connect explaining why a task is incomplete, if homework has not been completed.

**How often should parents monitor homework?**

* Homework will be assigned through Aladdin Connect or through your son’s homework folder for classes from Junior Infants to 4th Class. A school Journal will be used by pupils in 5th and 6th Class to help develop skills needed for secondary school.
* Parents should check and sign a child’s homework journal every evening for 5th and 6th Classes.
* Ideally, all written messages to your child’s teacher should be through Aladdin Connect
* Please check that your child records the homework neatly on the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.

**How often do teachers monitor homework?**

* Teachers like to check homework on a daily basis.
* 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.
* Children themselves under the direction of the teacher may check some items of homework (and classwork). This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

**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 he cannot understand some aspect.
* If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

**Guidelines for Parents**

The school encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. Parents are encouraged to:

* Establish a set routine and time for your child to do his homework (please see below)
* Supervise children’s homework, checking the homework when it is completed.
* Try to allow your child to work independently as they should be able to complete most of their homework with minimal support.
* Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances via Aladdin Connect
* Remember that time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
* Please let your child’s class teacher know if homework needs to be differentiated.

**Creating the Homework Habit**

Family situations, each one unique, undoubtedly influence a child’s approach to homework and learning. Parents can help children develop good working habits. Please show your child that homework is an important priority and you value its worth by offering the following kinds of support.

* Sit down with your child and together schedule a time for completing homework assignments. Homework habits are more easily formed if children work at the same time each day.
* Help your child choose an appropriate study location – a quiet place, a desk or table for written work or a comfortable chair for reading.
* Provide your child with good lighting and necessary materials such as pencils, coloured pencils, paper and a dictionary.
* Ask your child to describe the assignment before beginning and later show you the completed work or summarise what he learned.
* If your child does need help, look over the material before you begin so you are familiar with the assignment.
* If your child becomes frustrated put the assignment away for a while.
* Please be available to check whether the assignment has been completed.
* Praise your child for completing homework.
* When possible, help your child relate homework assignments to everyday life and skills.