



*St. Helen's S.N.S.
Portmarnock*



Homework Policy

Ratified by Board of Management

St. Helen's S.N.S.

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It encourages children to work independently and to take responsibility for their assignments. It provides a link between school and home and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

Aims

to consolidate what was learned in school during the day
to foster independent learning skills
to promote positive home/school communication

How often is homework set?

Homework is set each night from Monday to Thursday. At a teacher's discretion, exceptions can be made as a treat or to acknowledge some special occasion e.g pupil of the month, birthdays, tours etc.

Homework content

In general, homework contains a balance between written, learning and reading tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables and written activities. It is important that learning activities receive the same emphasis as written ones.

Time should always be set aside for reading.

Duration

The following are guidelines for the time spent at homework. The time spent can vary from one child to the next and may vary from the beginning to the end of the school year.

- 3rd and 4th class – 30 mins
- 5th and 6th class – 45 mins

Pupil Guidelines

Pupils should

- write their homework accurately in their journals
- ensure that they take home the relevant books and copies

- complete written work to the best of their ability
- ask an adult to listen to work that had to be learned
- spend at least 10 minutes reading a library book or other book of their choice

Parent Guidelines

Parents should

- establish a routine and agree a suitable time for homework
- provide a quiet place, free from distractions and with a suitable work surface
- encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subject areas
- encourage children to work independently
- check that homework has been completed and then sign the child's journal.
- ensure that their child spends at least 10 minutes reading a book of their choice.

If a child is having persistent difficulties with homework, parents should contact the class teacher.

Failure to Complete Homework

Failure to complete homework will only be excused by a note from a parent.

Teachers will check homework regularly. If there is a pattern of incomplete homework, then parents will be contacted with a view to resolving the problem