

# St. Declan's National School

## Homework Policy

### January 2015

#### Introductory Statement

This policy was originally drafted on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2004 by a sub-committee, Rose Murphy, Brigid O' Shea, Sean Grant, Alice Brennan and Deirdre O' Connor in consultation with parents and teachers (survey). This latest review was led by the Principal in consultation with the In-House Management Team, Teaching Staff and the Parents' Association in December 2014 and Jan 2015.

#### Rationale

Firstly, is to ensure that there is a consistent approach to homework throughout the school. Secondly to provide parents with a clear understanding of school guidelines and expectations in relation to homework.

#### Relationship to Characteristic Spirit of the School

St Declan's seeks to enable each child to develop his potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for assignments.

#### Aims of this Policy

- To develop a consistent approach to homework across all classes.
- To provide guidelines for parents and pupils regarding homework.

The provision of homework enables the following....

- It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.
- It give pupils an opportunity for independent learning and to develop study skills particularly in senior classes.
- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can involve parents and families in the pupils work to their mutual benefit.

The provision of homework enables the teacher:

- To monitor pupil progress with a view to improving standards.
- To provide pupils and parents with clear and relevant feedback.
- To suggest strategies for improvements and goals to be achieved.

### **Overview**

All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age, class and ability. Homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects, diagnostic and standardized tests lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of pupil's progress and academic development as they go through the school.

### **Guidelines**

1. Pupils will be assigned Homework on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (Sept – June). The nature of the homework will inevitably change on occasions like Christmas, Communion, Confirmations, etc. At the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, pupils can have a homework free day as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Pupils may be asked to complete unfinished homework at weekends.

Homework unfinished due to illness does not normally need to be completed.

Pupils who have not completed classwork may be requested to finish this at home.

2. In middle/senior classes some project work may be undertaken over a period of time – some pupils may choose to do this at weekends.
3. Homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance can vary from day to day. These tasks are designed to consolidate the child's classroom learning experiences, while on other occasions they are designed to encourage the pupils to work independently and show initiative. Reading is a priority and should be seen as important as any other aspects of homework.

4. Provision will be made for pupils with special needs or special circumstances in consultation with parents and/or resource/learning support teachers. This accommodation may involve a reduced workload.
5. Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day. Parents are also encouraged to read to their younger children every day.
6. Pupils experiencing consistent difficulties with homework should communicate this to the class teacher (either themselves or parent).
7. Approximate working time to be allocated to homework:
 

Junior Infants	5 – 10 minutes
Senior Infants	up to 15 minutes
1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Classes	20 - 30 minutes
3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Classes	30 - 45 minutes
5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Classes	from 45 minutes to an hour

These times are guidelines only. Some children may complete their work in less time, however if your child is taking more than the time the guideline suggests, please consult the class teacher.

**Parents can support this policy by:**

1. Providing space and time for their son to do his homework, turn off television/radio/electronic devices etc. until homework is finished.
2. Checking that the homework is completed and signing the homework journal each day.
3. Having a positive attitude towards homework and regularly discussing various aspects of the work to be completed.
4. Discussing a problem when it arises with the class teacher.
5. Providing encouragement for their son to do his best and make an honest effort.

**Success Criteria**

This policy will be deemed successful if the majority of pupils are completing assignments satisfactorily and there is positive feedback (or none) from parents.

## **Roles and Responsibility**

- The class teacher will be responsible for preparation and correction of homework.
- In certain circumstances the resource/learning support teacher will be responsible for the preparation and correction of homework.
- Parents/guardians will be responsible for supervision of homework, oral and written – parents are requested to sign the homework copy/journal daily.
- Parents are requested to encourage children to complete tasks.
- Pupils will be responsible for completion of assignments to the best of their ability.

## **Timeframe for Implementation**

Any new procedures will apply from February 2015

## **Timeframe for Review**

The homework policy will be updated when necessary or reviewed every 2 years.

## **Responsibility for Review**

The Principal will in consultation with the In-House Management Team & Staff will be responsible for the review of this policy.

## **Ratification and Communication**

This original policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004 and communicated to the Parents' Association Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

This latest review was ratified by the BOM on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015

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Chairperson

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Principal