

**St. Tola's National School,
Tullyglass, Shannon
Co. Clare**

Homework Policy

The Board of Management of St. Tola's N.S. recognizes homework as an integral link in the chain of communication between home and school. Parents/guardians can monitor the progress of their child/children through reference to homework activities and liaison with teachers. This homework policy has been reviewed by staff with input from the Parents' Association and ratified by the Board of Management

AIMS

In general, the broad aims of this homework policy are to

- Promote the use of homework to consolidate learning and reinforce work being done at school
- Promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework for teachers across all class levels
- Keep parents/guardians in touch and involved in their child's/children's education
- Enhance pupils' self-esteem through the provision of a homework menu that is doable
- Enable pupils to develop a sense of responsibility and independence
- Develop and encourage the habit of independent study
- Further develop links between home and school

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS

- Homework should be an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to consolidate work done
- Homework should never be given unless the teacher has thoroughly prepared and explained what is to be done
- Homework must be consistent - a small amount given in such a way as to form a pattern for the child so they are more likely to remember what to do
- Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur. Some homework may be self-correcting.
- The time that teachers are to expect a child to spend in total on homework tasks in each class is as follows

Junior Infants	10 to 15 mins	A variety of age and ability appropriate homework tasks are issued with the teacher giving guidance to parents on what is expected
Senior Infants	10 to 15 mins	A variety of age and ability appropriate homework tasks are issued with the teacher giving guidance to parents on what is expected
1 st Class	Up to 20 mins	A variety of age and ability appropriate homework tasks are issued with the teacher giving guidance to parents on what is expected

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2 nd Class	Up to 20 mins	A variety of age and ability appropriate homework tasks are issued with the teacher giving guidance to parents on what is expected
3 rd class	Up to 30 mins	A variety of age and ability appropriate homework tasks are issued with the teacher giving guidance to parents on what is expected
4 th class	Up to 30 minutes	A variety of age and ability appropriate homework tasks are issued with the teacher giving guidance to parents on what is expected
5 th class	Up to 40 minutes	A variety of age and ability appropriate homework tasks are issued with the teacher giving guidance to parents on what is expected
6 th class	Up to 50 minutes	A variety of age and ability appropriate homework tasks are issued with the teacher giving guidance to parents on what is expected

- Where pupils are receiving additional support from a member of the SEN team the class teacher and SEN teacher 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 is assigned Monday to Thursday. Usually there is no homework assigned at weekends.
- Teachers of infant classes should communicate the nature and type of homework children are expected to complete and subsequently when new types of homework are introduced.
- Teachers of 1st-6th classes should provide adequate time for children to record their homework in their homework diaries and ensure that they take home the necessary copies and books required to complete homework.
- Teachers from 3rd-6th classes should at regular intervals vary homework tasks across the curriculum so that parents are aware of what their child is learning in subjects such as History, Geography, Science etc.
- At times pupils may also bring home a piece of work they completed in school that they are proud of and share with their parents/guardians
- Pupils may be asked to give an oral presentation on an area they studied in school on occasion also.

If homework tasks are not being completed on a regular basis the teacher will

- Put a note in the homework journal to inform the parents/guardians

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- If there are regular occurrences of homework not being completed the teacher will contact the parents/guardians by phone initially to discuss the issue
- If there are still issues a meeting will be arranged with the teacher and the parents/guardian to resolve the problem

Expectations of Pupils

It is expected that pupils will

- 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
- Bring a note from parents if for some reason homework was not completed

Guidelines for Parents

St. Tola's 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/her homework
- Ensure your child has a quiet environment to work in. The TV or other devices should not be on while your child is doing their homework.
- Make sure your child has all the necessary equipment e.g. pens, pencils, eraser, sharpener etc.
- Be a resource for your child but don't hover over them with constant advice or do their work for them. Remember that sometimes the best help is a word of encouragement.
- Acknowledge and respect effort, honesty and enthusiasm. By doing this your child will progress and develop at their own pace, in a safe and relaxed environment.
- Be consistent. Discuss, monitor, check and sign the homework journal every night.
- If homework causes stress or worry to your child please contact your child's teacher and let them know as soon as possible.
- Where possible relate homework to everyday life and skills

Please note

Your child will make mistakes. Encourage them to find and correct their own mistakes.

Children must be able to accept that making mistakes is part of the learning process and it is important that they can go back and try a different method or approach.

What should parents do if there is a problem with their child's homework?

- If your child needs help, look over the material first so you are familiar with the assignment
- If your child becomes frustrated put the assignment away for a while
- Praise your child for "giving it a go" even if they do not manage to complete the assignment and let the teacher know they tried but could not complete it via the homework diary or Seesaw.
- If your child is having regular difficulty with an aspect of homework, they can't complete it in the set time or any other problem please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible. It is a good idea in this instance to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher.
- If homework cannot be completed due to family circumstances let the teacher know via a note in the homework journal or seesaw.

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Ratification/Review/Implementation

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 25th October 2022 and implemented immediately.

This policy will be reviewed as required.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management by



PJ Burke
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 25th October 2022