

Homework Policy

St Mary's & St Gerard's Primary School

Introduction

At St Mary's & St Gerard's Primary School, homework is an integral part of the learning process, providing opportunities to reinforce classroom learning, develop independence, and foster a positive partnership between home and school. This policy outlines the purpose, expectations, and procedures for homework across all year levels.

Aims of Homework

1. Reinforce and consolidate skills and concepts taught in class.
 2. Encourage independent learning and self-discipline.
 3. Provide parents/guardians with insights into their child's learning.
 4. Develop good work habits for lifelong learning.
-

General Guidelines

- Homework will be assigned in a balanced manner to ensure it supports but does not overwhelm students or families.
 - Tasks will be age-appropriate, achievable, and linked to classwork.
 - The time allocated for homework will vary by class level, as outlined below.
 - Homework is not assigned over weekends, school holidays, or during special school events unless agreed otherwise.
-

Recommended Time Allocations

- **Junior Infants – Senior Infants:** 10–15 minutes (e.g., reading, phonics, number games).
 - **1st – 2nd Class:** 20–30 minutes (e.g., reading, spelling, maths activities).
 - **3rd – 4th Class:** 30–40 minutes (e.g., project work, written tasks, reading).
 - **5th – 6th Class:** 40–60 minutes (e.g., research, problem-solving, written work).
-

Types of Homework

Homework may include:

- Reading (books, assigned texts, or independent reading).
 - Language (English & Irish tasks)
 - Writing (creative or structured assignments).
 - Mathematics (problems, exercises, or games).
 - Spelling and vocabulary practice.
 - Use of the local and wider environment to support outdoors learning
 - Kindness Homework in December
 - Physical activities
 - Religious tasks and activities
 - Use of digital learning websites and assigned tasks e.g. Spellings for me, Mathletics
 - Research or project-based tasks.
 - Practical activities to develop skills or encourage creativity.
-

Role of Teachers

- Assign meaningful and manageable homework.
 - Ensure clear instructions are provided.
 - Monitor and provide feedback on completed work.
 - Communicate with parents/guardians regarding any concerns.
-

Role of Parents/Guardians

- Provide a quiet and suitable environment for completing homework.
 - Encourage and support their child without completing tasks for them.
 - Check and sign homework (if required).
 - Put a note in the journal / email teacher if homework is incomplete
 - Communicate with teachers if difficulties arise.
-

Role of Students

- Complete homework to the best of their ability.
 - Take responsibility for managing their time and materials.
 - Seek help if they are unsure about a task.
-

Special Considerations

- Homework will be differentiated where necessary to meet individual learning needs.
 - Students with additional needs may have homework adapted in consultation with parents, Class teacher, S.E.T. Teacher & Principal
-

Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually by staff, parents, and the Board of Management.
 - Feedback from all stakeholders will guide any necessary changes.
-

Compliance and Support

While we encourage full participation in homework, we understand that occasional difficulties may arise. In such cases, parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate promptly with the class teacher to resolve any issues collaboratively.

This policy reflects the values and vision of St Mary's & St Gerard's Primary School, ensuring homework supports the holistic development of our students.

Approved By:

Principal: _____

Board of Management Chairperson: _____

Date: _____