

# **Scoil Sean tSráide**

## **Homework Policy**

As the new school year begins, we hope that our school homework policy will be of benefit to you in helping to reinforce the work of our school.

### **Reasons for Homework**

- To consolidate and re-enforce what has been done at school.
- To promote independent learning and self-discipline.
- To keep parents in touch with what the child is doing in school.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.

### **Infants**

In infant classes, homework is usually given but is not recorded in a journal by pupils. Parents at infant level tend to have more contact with the teacher and are generally aware of what the child has to do.

### **First – Sixth Class**

Homework is generally assigned to all classes from Monday to Thursday and is written into the pupil's homework journal. Extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, not made a reasonable effort or presented untidy work. Sometimes, at the discretion of class teacher or Principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.

### **Content of Homework**

- Homework will usually contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- This balance may vary from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Shared Reading is not homework in the regular sense and is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

### **Time spent on Homework**

It is difficult to specify how long children at various levels should spend on homework, as time spent depends on:-

1. The age of the pupil
2. The child's ability to listen in class and learn – attentiveness in class will shorten time spent on homework considerably.
3. The child's level of concentration – Ensure child is focusing on homework.

4. The suitability or otherwise of the learning environment – distractions, interruptions, etc.
5. The time of evening when homework is undertaken – Ideally homework should be undertaken early in the evening.

However, the following times may be used as a guideline by parents:

Infants	5 – 15 mins
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> class	30 – 45 mins
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> class	45 – 60 mins
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> class	60 – 75 mins

If parent feels that the child often needs to spend an inappropriate amount of time at regular homework, the parent should arrange to meet the class teacher. If at all possible, make an appointment.

### How can parents help?

- ❖ Begin homework early
- ❖ Encourage a positive attitude towards homework from an early age
- ❖ Praise rather than entice
- ❖ Encourage the child to undertake his/her homework independently. This will help the child build confidence and self-discipline.
- ❖ Encourage the child to organise himself/herself for homework, e.g. to have all required materials to hand i.e. books, pens, etc. The pupil should have the Homework Journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- ❖ Help your child to do his/her homework by providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions, TV and other children.
- ❖ Parents/guardians are advised not to over-help by doing the work for the child, i.e. giving him/her the sentence, the answer, etc. However some children will require assistance and a one-to-one situation with the parent can be beneficial.
- ❖ Presentation – encourage neatness and tidiness.
- ❖ Parents/guardians are asked to examine oral work and check that all assigned work has been completed.
- ❖ If for **exceptional** reasons homework cannot be completed, please write note to the teacher.

### Remember

Your child's educational progress is our priority. If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher, we are here to help!