

St. Patricks Primary School



Homework Policy

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Reviewed Spring 2019

St. Patricks Primary School Loughguile

Homework Policy

Aims of Policy

- To provide a clear definition of the purpose and nature of homework at St. Patricks P.S Loughguile.
- To identify our shared views of good practice.
- To establish how homework will be organised and how we ensure progression across the school.
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of those involved.
- To make clear the ways in which we aim to ensure that the policy makes an important contribution to the quality of teaching and learning in the school.

Definition

At St. Patricks we view homework as being a supported or independent task undertaken outside of curriculum time which reinforces, extends or enriches current learning.

Purpose

The purpose of homework at St. Patricks is to provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning. Also for children to have the opportunity to learn, practice and co-ordinate the basic building blocks for all other learning in literacy and numeracy. Furthermore, the purpose of homework is for children to take responsibility for their own learning and to be independent learners in order to develop perseverance.

Good Practice

At St. Patricks, we believe that the following principles underlie good practice.

- That staff, parents and governors are involved in developing the policy and that it is a process which takes place over time and results in the completion of a written guidance document.
- The policy is co-ordinated by a senior member of staff.
- A variety of approaches are used to ensure that parents and children are aware of homework expectations and organisation. These can include meetings, booklets etc.
- Homework allocations are made clear.
- Homework is set in a structured way to help children develop regular study patterns (with parental help if needed).
- There is regular feedback and praise for completed work and a system in place for responding to children who fail to complete.
- The reasons why homework has not been completed are investigated before action is taken.
- In planning homework, a whole staff approach has been taken, and progression from P1-P7 is clear and defined in the My Weekly Learning Programme.
- Any additional homework given by the individual teacher will have clear learning interests.
- There is a clear system for monitoring how the policy requirements are being fulfilled.
- The policy is reviewed regularly with the School Improvement Plan.
- There is a clear, consistent, whole staff approach to the planning, delivery and purpose of the homework set in St. Patricks P.S.
- Primary 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 pupils have a Reading Record book which also serves as a home/ school link.
- Primary 6 and 7 have a homework diary, which also serves as a home/ school link.

Range of Activities

- Each child will have a My Weekly Learning Folder, which gives the child the opportunity to learn, practice and consolidate their spellings, table facts, number bonds, numeracy topic work and grammar.
- Each child will have a Reading Book.
- Each child may have an additional literacy or numeracy activity with clear learning intentions.
- Each child may have religion homework with clear learning intentions.

Organisation

Progression is planned from Primary 1, Foundation to Primary 7, key stage 2.

Progression is inbuilt into the My Weekly Learning Programme, the reading materials and the literacy, numeracy and religion curriculum.

Primary 1 and Primary 2 – Foundation

- Shared reading (Parents and child) → Monday to Thursday
- My Weekly Learning Folder → Monday to Thursday
- Sound booklet (Oral) → Monday to Thursday
- Religion → Thursday night

Homework for P1 and P2 should last **15 minutes** only. Once your child has spent the advised 15 minutes on their homework, pack it away.

Primary 3 and Primary 4 – Key Stage One

- Shared reading (Parents and child) → Monday to Thursday
- My Weekly Learning Folder → Monday to Thursday
- Literacy and Numeracy reinforcement worksheets
- Religion → Thursday night

Homework for P3 and P4 should last **20 minutes** only. Once your child has spent the advised 20 minutes on their homework, pack it away.

Primary 5 – Key Stage Two

- Reading → Monday to Thursday
- My Weekly Learning Folder → Monday to Thursday
- Literacy and numeracy reinforcement worksheets
- Religion activity if appropriate.

Homework for P5 should last **25 minutes** only. Once your child has spent the advised 25 minutes on their homework, pack it away.

Primary 6 and Primary 7 – Key Stage Two

- Reading → Monday to Thursday
- My Weekly Learning Folder → Monday to Thursday
- Literacy and Numeracy reinforcement sheets
- Religion activity if appropriate
- Homework for P6 and P7 should last between **30-40 minutes**. Once your child has spent the advised 30-40 minutes on their homework, pack it away.

Pupils participating in the Transfer Procedure will have other specific homework arrangements. This information will be made available to the P6 and P7 parents involved.

Roles and Responsibilities

Class Teacher

- Class teacher is responsible for planning, delivering and overseeing the homework organisation as detailed in The Homework Policy.
- Class teacher is responsible for responding to children's efforts, providing encouragement and reward.
- Class teacher is responsible for investigating reasons for homework not being completed before responding with sanctions.
- Class teacher is responsible for marking homework.
 - P1-P4 homework given on a Monday is marked on a Friday.
 - P5, P6 and P7 homework given on a Monday is marked on a Friday. Any extra reinforcement work and English and Maths practice sheets are marked daily.

Parents

- It is the parent's responsibility to oversee all home learning.
- Support the child's efforts.
- Be aware of the homework format for your child.
- Provide encouragement and an appropriate environment for homework.
- It is the parent's responsibility to sign the weekly learning test P3-P7, the reading records P1-P5 and P6 and P7s homework diaries.

Children

- Children are responsible for completing homework as requested.
- Children are responsible for developing their independence, organisational skills and increasing their effort, when completing homework as they move through the school.

Ensuring the homework is completed

If homework is not completed:

- Teacher will enquire as to why homework has not been completed and request that it is completed for the next day. (Verbal Warning)
- If the homework is not completed a second time, pupils will carry out the homework activity during their own time in school. This may be during a break time. (After 3rd of these)
- The pupil will be sent to the principal who will then inform the parents.

All parents will be provided with a Homework Policy, which will make the whole procedure very clear.

Special Arrangements

The class teacher will ensure that tasks are set which are appropriate to meet the needs of all children, including those with special educational needs, as well as those requiring further challenges.

Monitoring and Evaluating

In order to ensure that the policy directly contributes to the quality of learning and teaching the provision of homework will be monitored on an annual basis, to ensure that it maintains its high standard and consistent approach across the whole school.

Parents – A guide to supporting your child

- Provide a quiet area where your child can work. It is helpful to switch off the TV to aid concentration.
- Offer your help and support for younger children to complete tasks.
- Expect older children to work independently, but make it clear that you are there if needed.
- Encourage your child to complete homework on the day set, as the task will have just been explained. If they leave it until the day before it is due in, they may find that they need resources that they do not have to hand. The setting of homework several days in advance enables children to develop skills in organising their time. Younger children will need your support in moving towards this.
- Check your child's home school link regularly.
- Take an interest in the homework and encourage your child to take pride in the presentation of written tasks. Work should be handwritten by your child in pencil or a suitable handwriting pen, unless directed otherwise by your child's class teacher.

What do I do if I have a query?

If your child has a problem completing the homework or you have any questions, please call in and see the class teacher or write a note in the home school link. We will do all that we can to resolve the problem. Your support in the process is vital for children's success in developing self-study skills as they move on up through the school.

We hope that this policy has been helpful.

APPENDIX IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

While endeavouring to keep things as normal as possible for our children, we understand that there may be exceptional circumstances in our pupils' home lives, especially during this ongoing pandemic, where completion of homework is not possible. We will treat such cases with individual, sensitive respect and come up with solutions to best suit all concerned.

During periods of remote learning, there will be no differentiation between work completed during school hours and homework and this will be reflected in the quantity and level of work given.

We do expect parents/carers to monitor all work sent home and encourage children to complete to the best of their ability. We still aspire to the highest standards of learning for our pupils and this involves satisfactory levels of homework completion.