



## St. Dymphna's National School

Tydavnet, Co. Monaghan, H18FK12, Roll No. 19738L

### Homework Policy

#### Rationale:

Homework is important in many ways, not least in developing a child's initiative and instilling a sense of personal responsibility. It also provides a valuable home-school link. We are also aware that some children in the school may attend after school activities or afterschool in the evenings, and that this may curtail the time that they are able to spend doing homework. While we do not wish the child to be overloaded, we feel that homework can be a time that parent and child can spend together, where the parent (as the primary educator of their child) can help their child reach their full potential.

The NCCA offers practical guidance on how best to integrate homework, taking account of other needs such as recreation and family life in general. It also stresses where possible, the important role that parental involvement plays –to encourage and support children in finding their own way and building trust in their own skills. We strive to make this policy reflective of our wide range of needs and expectations but acknowledge that it may be adapted for future use. As with all school policies it shall be reviewed on an on-going basis.

The policy sets out a schedule of when homework is expected throughout the academic year. In so doing there is an emphasis on enabling teachers and children flexibility in the way in which they engage with the curriculum, to best support the individuals' learning needs. When homework is given, it is under the guidelines set down by this policy. The expected duration has been reviewed and reduced (as per response to our own parent survey). We have also factored in the responses from our children in their survey, and have taken into consideration topics and activities that they deem important and enjoy doing.



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### **Time Spent:**

Below is the outline of how long a child should spend doing homework based on their class level. Should you find that your child is taking longer than the allocated time below, please contact the class teacher. The school does not recommend spending longer than what is outlined below on homework.

***J. Infants: 10 minutes***

***S. Infants: 15 minutes***

***First/Second Class: 20 minutes***

***Third/Fourth Class: 25 minutes***

***Fifth/Sixth Class: 30 mins***

### **Homework Content and Assigning of Homework:**

Considering the feedback received from our surveys, please see below the structure and content of homework in St. Dymphna's NS:

- Homework is to be given from Monday to Thursday. There is no homework assigned on any Friday.
- Homework will be given on Monday for the week ahead. It is at the discretion of the class teacher if homework is to be done daily and checked daily or checked on Fridays and can be done in your own time from Monday to Thursday.
- If homework is not completed or partly not completed a short note from home via Aladdin should be given to explain this.
- There will be 1 day each week (Wellness Wednesdays) assigned to Active Homework. The Wellness Wednesday homework will be found on the Choice Board. There will still be reading related homework on this day but not written based homework. Spelling work can be done orally at home.
- Special Occasions whereby homework may not be assigned is at the Principals discretion only.
- Reading will be given each day Monday to Thursday.
- Mathematics based homework will be on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. This is at the discretion of the junior and senior infant class teacher as there may be periods whereby literacy needs to be prioritized.
- Mathematics based homework will be based on current classroom topics or



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revision of previous classroom topics. Strategies for solving new Maths topics can be sent home to aid in parents helping with homework. This is at the discretion of the class teacher.

- There may be project-based homework assigned at the discretion of the class teacher. During this time, children will focus on the assigned project homework instead of the choice board. (Project topics will be based around the following subjects: History, Geography, Science, Art, Music).
- Project based homework can be assigned at any part of the school year but the class teacher will give notice of this beforehand. For example, a nice time for project-based homework could be in Term 3 of school following Standardised Testing and as we head towards the last few weeks of school or perhaps done once at the end of every term etc. Project base homework will replace written homework when assigned.
- Wellness Wednesday homework options will come in the form of a Choice Board that contains 4 Active Pieces of Homework, 4 Wellness/Mindfulness Pieces of Homework. There will be a choice of 8 topics. The Choice Board will be made available each month to parents via the school website, Aladdin Connect App and a hard copy will be given to each family. For example: Go for a Walk, complete a set amount of activities, complete an activity that makes you feel good, complete some meditation, measure in footsteps the length of your garden/room in the house, listening to your favourite music, reading your favourite book/book from your favourite author.
- On occasion and in line with the specific learning targets of the children in question, Support Teachers may also assign homework in collaboration with the class teacher.

### **Homework While Absent:**

It is not the responsibility of the school to assign homework to children who are absent for extended periods of time which includes when children are too unwell to attend school. The only exception to this is:

- A child who is unable to return to school due to a family bereavement/serious illness of a family member and the parents/guardians of the child wish to continue homework during this time.

If a child is absent due to a family holiday taken during school time then homework will also not be assigned to the child for this period by the school.



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### **Parental Involvement:**

It is important to acknowledge that parents are the primary educators of their children. Homework therefore can provide a time in the day for parents to check in with their child's learning in school. We encourage parents to get involved, by listening to their child read and helping their children when necessary. However, in most cases our children should be encouraged to complete their homework independently. For our younger children independent work will occur under the supervision of an adult.

Parents are asked to make sure that children complete their homework every evening. Homework is used to re-enforce learning taking place in the school. It is important that parents listen to and check homework personally with their children.

Homework will be written in homework journals. Parents are asked to sign the journal to show the homework for was looked at. It also provides an opportunity for parents to leave a note if needed regarding how the homework went.

### **School Procedures:**

Each week class teachers will check in with their students to see how they are doing with their homework. How this is completed is at the discretion of the class teacher. Please see the following points which outline how this may look:

- This can come in the form of discussion or asking questions pertaining to the assigned homework in class.
- For reading homework, the class teacher may revise key words in the story and/or check reading of the story/passage in class.
- For Maths and written Literacy based homework, the class teacher will check in with the children via discussion and questioning also. There may also be an element of checking for understanding following homework through written questions in copies and workbooks, mini whiteboards, interactive whiteboard etc.
- For project and active based homework, the class teacher will inform how these are to be checked.



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**Communication of School Policy:**

Once ratified this policy will be made available view on the school's website. Parents will be informed when it is available to view here.

**Policy Review:**

This policy will be reviewed in October 2024.

**Policy Ratification:**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on Oct. 23.

Chairperson: Caroline Mc Nally Date: 13/10/23

Principal: Daniel Murphy Date: 13/10/23