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Homework Policy

Introduction:

This policy was developed and agreed upon by the teaching staff of the school over several staff meetings. It was circulated to parents in the year 2000 for their comments.

Rationale:

Parents, students and teachers should be clear as to expectations regarding homework.

Relationship to the Characteristic Spirit of the School:

We encourage the children to do their best with all forms of schoolwork, including homework. This can best be achieved if both parents and children are fully aware of expectations. We also believe in the need for children to develop their talents to the full, and this is reflected in our policy that homework should not take up an inordinate length of time.

Our policy

Homework should be:

- relevant to the work being done in class;
- regularly set and corrected;
- clearly explained;
- generally within the capabilities of the children such that large amounts of parental help are not required. This applies particularly to written work.
- occasionally requiring creative or independent research work.

The time to be spent on homework will obviously increase as the child progresses through the school. General guidelines are as follows:

Infants: 5 – 10 minutes.

- 1st and 2nd Class: 10 – 20 minutes.
- 3rd and 4th Class: 20 – 30 minutes.

- 5th and 6th Class: 30 – 45 minutes.

Children who fail to complete work in class may have to “catch up” at home in addition to doing their normal homework. If this seems to be happening constantly, so that homework is taking a very long time, parents should contact the class teacher.

Infants will usually have a homework page attached to their readers on which the teacher will record what needs to be done. In all other classes the children write their assignments into homework notebooks. Parents should contact the teacher if their child fails to do this.

Parents are asked to:

- make sure that the child does his/her homework;
- check that any “learning homework”, e. g. reading, spellings, tables etc., have been thoroughly mastered;
- let the teacher know if there seems to be an ongoing difficulty with any aspect of homework;
- refrain from giving the children extra schoolwork to do over and above their assigned homework;
- remember that children need time to play and to pursue hobbies and sports!

Teachers are asked to:

- inform parents (generally at the start of a year) of their expectations regarding homework;
- assign homework that is within children’s capabilities, without requiring a lot of parental help;
- give the students time every day to record homework in their homework diaries;
- correct homework daily and give appropriate feedback;
- consult with special needs teachers to ensure children have an appropriate amount of homework;
- not give homework on Friday except in special circumstances.

Review

Homework policy is reviewed annually at a staff meeting.

Signed by the Chairperson of the Board of Management:
