



St Catherine's National School
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Homework Policy

Introduction

This policy has been formulated by St Catherine's NS, to assist teachers in assigning appropriate homework assignments for their classes and to assist parents/guardians and pupils to complete homework accurately and in a timely manner.

This policy was developed and agreed upon by teaching staff and parents/guardians of the school over the course of the academic year 2018/2019. All parents/guardians were surveyed as to their views on homework in September 2018. Results of that survey show that 75% of parents/guardians believe that homework was important.

Rationale

Students, teachers and parents/guardians 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 parents/guardians 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. We strongly believe in promoting and developing the wellbeing and physical health and strengths of all children, supported by quality teaching and learning. We in St Catherine's NS understand the need for optimising opportunities to learn about wellbeing. We want to foster these opportunities from an early stage in primary school and promote these activities through the introduction of the Learning Logs in 3rd and 4th class.

Our Policy :

- Children are set homework which is work that supports and complements the work being carried out at school.
- The type of homework and amount will vary from time to time and from class to class but will increase as the child progresses through the school. Individual class teachers will correspond with parents/guardians outlining details.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to help their children to develop a positive approach to homework by setting aside a time in the day when they can complete their tasks.

- Homework is set as a way of informing and involving parents/guardians in their child's learning process, as well as enjoying activities and having fun. Teachers will be encouraged to send regular email updates outlining topics covered in class.
- The use of the seesaw app will be encouraged as a form of communication between school and home.
- All pupils are encouraged to read in their own time every day. From an early age they will bring home their reading books and the school hopes that parent/guardian and child will share the excitement of reading books together.
- Parents/guardians are also encouraged to spend time allowing and supporting children to develop life skills by encouraging them to read things around them e.g. labels, street signs etc as well as writing letters, stories, notes, lists and familiarise themselves with every day maths. This is supported and reinforced by staff during school time.
- Homework assignments in literacy and numeracy are given on a regular basis with particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy facts. Once again parental help with the learning of spelling and number patterns is much valued and has a noticeable impact on children's learning.
- Learning Log assignments may involve research, writing, reading or learning and should be completed on time. The Learning Log assignments will start in 3rd class and all curricular areas will be covered in a staged approach from 3rd to 6th class. The goal of a Learning log assignment is to encourage children to become independent learners and communicators, to develop good homework practice and to feel proud of the things they learn in school.
- The standard of any written homework assignment should be in line with the golden rule of 'We work hard' and be presented to the highest standard appropriate to the pupil's ability.
- Learning homework is just as important as written assignments and adequate time should be devoted to learning assignments
- Homework assignments will be recorded in the pupil's learning log from 1st to 6th class. Parents/guardians should sign this sheet along with the amount of time it has taken the child to complete their homework daily.
- It is important to inform the class teacher, by email, if a child is having difficulty with homework or if homework has not been completed on a specific day due to unavoidable circumstances.
- Reading with a parent/guardian on a daily basis is essential. Parents/guardians are asked to sign the pupil's reading record on completion of reading homework.

Recommended daily Homework

The times below should be used as a guideline. If a child is struggling to complete homework in the given time, parents/guardians should contact the child's teacher to discuss this.

Junior Infants and Senior Infants: 10 – 15 minutes

First and Second Class: Up to 30 minutes

Third and Fourth Class: Up to 45 minutes

Fifth and Sixth Class: Up to 1 hour

Appendix 1 : Examples of Homework assigned by class teacher

Junior Infants	Nursery Rhymes – encourage singing, chanting, whispering the rhyme Numicon number sheets – numbers 1-5 – encourage photos, drawings, videos to be sent in via email Number rhymes sent home via youtube and encourage singing at home Topics being covered in maths explained to parents via email/app – drawings etc encouraged Stay Safe Home link worksheets when appropriate All work shown in Homework Learning Log or to be sent via email or seesaw
Senior Infants	Big Box Adventures (Reading Scheme) word lists, Dolch word lists and readers Reading activities explained to parents via email or app Topics being covered in Maths explained to parents via email or app – photos and/drawings encouraged Stay Safe Home link worksheets when appropriate All work shown in their homework Learning log or sent via email or seesaw
1st class & 2nd class	Reading Spellings Number Facts

	<p>Music</p> <p>Stay Safe & Weaving Wellbeing (2nd class only) Home link worksheets when appropriate</p> <p>Maths, Irish & SESE topics explained via app/email</p> <p>All work shown in their homework Learning log or sent via email</p>
<p>3rd Class & 4th class</p>	<p>Reading</p> <p>Spellings</p> <p>Number Facts</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Stay Safe & Weaving Wellbeing Home Link worksheets when appropriate</p> <p>One Life Skills/Physical/Wellbeing Homework assignment to be completed from menu per fortnight</p> <p>All work shown in their homework Learning log or sent via email/seesaw</p>
<p>5th Class & 6th class</p>	<p>Reading</p> <p>Spellings</p> <p>Number Facts</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Stay Safe Home & Weaving Wellbeing Link worksheets when appropriate</p> <p>One Learning Log (Project style) assignment every month or fortnight based on topics covered in class</p> <p>All work shown in their homework Learning log or sent via email</p>

Appendix 2 : Examples of Learning Log Menu for 3rd & 4th Class

Cycle your bike or use your scooter – increase the time daily. Record your data	Go for a walk – change the distance daily. Record your route.	Make up a new playground game	Make up a dance to your favourite song
Jog around your house or garden 3 times – time yourself over the week	Gratitude Journal – write for 5 minutes in your gratitude journal daily	Breathing buddy – each day this week find a quiet space with your breathing buddy and practice breathing techniques	Make your own school lunch
Make your own obstacle course	Make a sandwich or your favourite snack	Do 5 minutes of stretching followed by 20 squats	Animal Walks – walk around your house like an animal might! How many different animals can you imitate in 10 minutes?
Make your bed and tidy your room	Have an active hour with your family – throw a dice and use this number to determine the amount of minutes spent on a variety of activities.	Scissors Challenge – Scissor Jump for 1 minute – challenge yourself to beat your score every minute for 5 minutes	Practice skipping for 5 minutes – increase the time daily

Appendix 3 : Examples of Learning Log Menu for 5th & 6th Class

<p>History - Tell me about the Cultural Revolution. You could talk about what it was, why it happened, when it happened, the GAA, the decline of the Irish language, the Gaelic league, the Literary Revival</p>	<p>Irish - We have covered the following topics in Gaeilge, complete a learning log on one of them.</p> <p>Mé Féin, Bia, An Aimsir srl</p>	<p>Maths - Since September we have covered the following in Maths. Choose one and tell me everything you know about it.</p> <p>Addition & subtraction, square numbers, factors, multiples, equivalent fractions</p>	<p>Complete a learning log on anything you want.</p>
<p>SESE – Share everything you know about the Ancient Maya Civilisation</p>	<p>Complete a learning log on time.</p>	<p>Art – Research an artist we have learned about this year and share your research OR create an artwork in the style of one of these artists</p>	<p>SPHE – share everything you know about teamwork</p>
<p>Science – Prepare a healthy, balanced meal for your family OR plan two healthy balanced meals – remember to have the correct amounts of each food group</p>	<p>Share everything you have learned about rocks</p>	<p>English - Share everything you know so far about the characters in Journey to the River Sea</p>	<p>English - You are running for President of Ireland – produce your election material!</p>

