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## **Court N.S. Homework Policy**

### **PURPOSE**

This policy has been formulated by Court N.S. to assist teachers assign appropriate homework for their pupils and to assist parents and pupils in completing homework timely and accurately.

Homework is given in Court N.S. to:

- reinforce what the child learning.
- provide a link between teacher and parent
- develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.

The type and amount of homework will vary from time to time and from class to class but will increase as the child progresses through school.

### **ASPIRATIONS**

Homework is meant to be achievable for the child. It should provide an opportunity to practice work already done as opposed to new material, however, sometimes in our senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less. All pupils are encouraged to spend time reading every day and the school hopes that parents and children can regularly share the excitement of reading books together.

## **NORMS**

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays but not on Thursday or Fridays with three exceptions:

1. If homework has been neglected during the week
2. In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends
3. Extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

Every now and again children are given a night off homework by either the class teacher or principal. This usually happens on special occasions, in acknowledgement of hard work or when a child receives a homework pass as part of the Court N.S. code of behaviour Bí Céinalta

## **CONTENT**

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class. Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart” is not real homework. Parents \ Guardians can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

## **PARENTAL \ GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT**

Parents \ Guardians can help their children with homework by providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework and by trying to prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children. Children should do written homework themselves and Parents \ Guardians should only help when the child has difficulty. If a child has difficulty with homework, the Parents \ Guardians should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

## TIME GUIDELINES

Written homework will be on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thursday- Thoughtful Thursday will be a time for children to do something nice with/for a member of their family. There will be no written homework on a Thursday just “learning” and reading.

**Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time.** Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the **quality** and **not the quantity** of homework that matters. **It’s also important to remember that the times quoted below represent uninterrupted time where the child is focused on their work and free from distractions.**

Class	Time
Junior & Senior Infants	10-15 minutes
First & Second Class	Up to 30 minutes
Third & Fourth Class	30-45 minutes*
Fifth & Sixth Class	Up to 1 hour*

*\*Not including time allocated for project work in these classes.*

**If a pupil is having difficulty completing their homework in the time allocated, on an ongoing basis, please arrange a meeting with the class teacher to discuss tips on how this difficulty may be overcome.**

## MONITORING HOMEWORK AT HOME

Parents \ Guardians should check and sign a child’s Homework Sheet every evening. It’s good practice to write down the amount of time it took your child to complete homework alongside your nightly signing of homework. This assists teachers in assigning the correct amount of homework each evening.

## MONITORING HOMEWORK AT SCHOOL

The homework will be given out on a Monday morning for the week allowing children to complete it at their own pace. Teachers will collect up written homework on a Thursday morning.

## COMMUNICATION ABOUT HOMEWORK

On Aladdin please inform your child's teacher when:

- ♦ your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- ♦ your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- ♦ the time being spent at homework is longer than the recommended amount of time.

## DOING HOMEWORK

Each family situation is different but, ideally, homework should be done soon after school while your child is still fresh. Some children, however, need a break before starting homework.

**If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong. This leads to poor learning and defeats the purpose of this policy. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher immediately.**

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Board of Management.

## Appendix A

\*No written work or new learning on a Thursday

<b>Infants</b>		
<b>Spellings</b>	<u>English</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Spelling & Phonics 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 4 per night 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> 4 per night	<u>Gaeilge</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> class 2 per night 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> - 2 per night 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> - 2 per night
<b>Reading</b>	Monday to Thursday Junior Infants-4 <sup>th</sup> Class explicit reading	
<b>Verbs</b>	Monday-Thursday 1 verb per week 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Class	
<b>Tables/Maths</b>	Monday-Wednesday Mental Maths Questions 1-10 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Monday-Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> -Tables learning	
<b>Written Work</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon-Wed- Grammar sheet  5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Class Monday-Read @ home (English) Tuesday-Read at home (Gaeilge) Wednesday- Grammar	