

Homework Policy

St. John the Evangelist N.S.

Rationale for Reviewing Our Homework Policy:

- The homework policy has been reviewed to fulfil the obligations of the New Primary Framework. The New Primary Curriculum Framework represents a shift towards a more holistic, student-centred, and flexible approach to education in Ireland. It acknowledges that learning happens in various contexts and encourages educators to create meaningful learning experiences for their students. It emphasises the importance of curriculum integration, inclusive practice, inquiry-based learning, and playful pedagogy.
- Our homework policy endeavours to reflect the core values of inclusion, and commitment to the holistic development of each child as laid out by our mission statement. We recognise the value of strong home school relationships and are committed to providing education of the highest standard to all children in our school.
- We adhere to Article 31.1 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child in recognising 'the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts' (UNCRC 20, 1990).
- At the time of this review there continues to be no government directive on homework. It is up to each school to decide on the content and frequency of homework given to children. We understand that homework impacts students, teachers, parents, and other family members. We hope to achieve clarity around homework for the benefit of all stakeholders.

“Play is the Work of the Child”- Dr.Maria Montessori.

Rationale for giving homework

- To provide a link between teacher and parents.
- To reinforce what the child has learned in school.
- To develop a child’s independence or concentration skills at an age appropriate level.

Content of homework

- Homework can vary from day to day and may contain one or more of the following tasks: movement, investigating, playing, reading, writing, speaking and learning strategies.

Frequency of homework

- Homework maybe given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the discretion of teachers. Homework is not given on Fridays.

How best to support your child with homework

You can support your child by:

- Showing an interest in their learning.
- Offering guidance when needed.
- Providing positive reinforcement (praise and encouragement).

More information about the New Primary Framework can be found at the following link:

[The Primary Curriculum Framework | Curriculum Online](#)

Monitoring homework

Parents:

- Parents can link with their child's homework by checking their homework folder / copies.

Teachers:

- Teachers will review homework on a regular basis.
- Some items of homework (and class work) may be reviewed by the pupils themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it teaches them to self-correct.

Communication

Parents:

We recommend that you communicate with your child's teacher to inform them:

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspects.
- If the time being spent on homework is too long/ causes upset for your child.
- Your child did not have access to resources or equipment needed.

Teachers:

- Will inform parents if homework is regularly incomplete without explanation from parents.

We, the teachers in St John the Evangelist NS recognise that parents play a key role in their child's education. The New Primary Curriculum Framework supports learning at home through activities that are purposeful, diverse, engaging, supportive of child agency and choice, considerate of the home learning environment, developmentally appropriate, and aligned with children's diverse needs and abilities (New Primary Curriculum Framework, 2023, p 34). In reviewing our school's homework policy we have endeavoured to fulfil these aspects of the New Curriculum to provide an awareness of the principles of the curriculum to promote a partnership approach with parents to support their child's holistic development.