



Homework Policy

1. Introductory Statement and Rationale

This Homework Policy was drafted through collaborative engagement of the teaching staff under the direction of the Principal and relevant AP2, with valuable input from the wider staff team, parents/guardians, and the Board of Management.

In St. Peter's National School, we see homework as a means to fostering pupils' independence, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility and commitment to lifelong learning. It is a means of reinforcing what our pupils learn at school. It provides a link between home and school and encourages parental involvement in their child's education and day to day learning.

The purpose of this Homework Policy is to:

- Outline, inform and guide homework practices in our school
- Outline the respective roles of teachers, parents and pupils in relation to homework
- Assist parents/guardians in supporting their child's engagement in homework

2. Relationship to the Characteristic Spirit of the School

St. Peter's National School is committed to supporting pupils' learning in a manner that identifies and addresses the needs of the individual learner. The regular assignment of engaging, appropriate and differentiated homework encourages pupils to work independently, to develop key skills and to share responsibility for their learning with their class teacher and with their family.

3. Aims

The aims of this Homework Policy are to:

- Promote the use of homework to consolidate learning and work being done at school.
- Enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is attainable.
- Enable children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence.
- Enable children to develop study skills and encourage the habit of independent study.
- Strengthen the connection between home and school.
- Provide clarity on homework expectations for each class

4. Guidelines for Implementation

4.1 Guidelines for Teachers

- Homework is given to reinforce and consolidate work completed at school.
- Homework tasks are explained clearly to the pupils.
- Homework is assigned consistently.
- Teachers will check homework on a regular basis and provide extra guidance where difficulties occur.



- Teacher will check homework journals regularly. In large classes, it is not always possible to check homework journals every day.
- Teachers will provide extra guidance/differentiate homework as appropriate.

4.2 Guidelines for Parents

Parents are encouraged to:

- Establish a set routine and time for their child to do his/her homework. It is advised that homework is completed in a “television free, device free” zone.
- Listen to reading and items to be learned, ensuring that this work is done well.
- Supervise their child's homework and check the homework once it is completed.
- Allow their child to work independently, as far as possible, as their child should be able to complete most of their homework with minimal support.
- Contact the class teacher if homework has not been completed, if homework is too difficult /too easy, if homework is regularly exceeding the recommended guidelines or if homework is regularly a stressful experience for child and parent. In the senior classes (5th and 6th), it is expected that children should be taking responsibility and informing the teacher themselves in relation to any difficulties they may have (aside from in exceptional circumstances).

4.3 Expectations of Pupils

It is expected that pupils will:

- Complete assignments on time .
- Complete and present work to the best of their ability.
- Appreciate that study tasks and learning spellings and tables are as important as written tasks.
- Bring a note to school explaining why a task is incomplete/parents send an explanation via Aladdin Connect, if homework is not completed. It is expected that senior students (5th and 6th class pupils) will inform the teacher themselves.

4.4 Assignment of Homework

- Homework is generally assigned each weeknight except for Fridays. Homework for infant classes is generally assigned weekly. However, teachers may adapt the setting of homework to the needs of their class (e.g. assign homework to be completed over the course of two/three nights such as a research project).
- Homework may be assigned on Fridays at the discretion of the teacher.
- Homework may be assigned on Fridays if it has been neglected by a pupil during the week.
- Where a pupil receives homework from their special education teacher (SET), the class teacher and SET will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive.
- Occasionally, at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, pupils may be given a homework-free night as a reward or as an acknowledgment of some special occasion.



4.5 Homework Content

Homework ideally contains a balance of reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. It should be noted that time devoted to reading and learning homework is just as important as written work.

Homework may include, but is not limited to, reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be learned by heart, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items, practical/physical tasks and finishing work started in class. Occasionally pupils will undertake project work.

4.6 Time for Homework

Time spent on homework will vary from day to day and also from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. Different pupils will complete the same homework in various lengths of time.

The following are general time guidelines for each class level.

Junior Infants	Up to 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 15 minutes
1 st Class	Up to 20 minutes
2 nd Class	Up to 30 minutes
3 rd Class	Up to 40 minutes
4 th Class	Up to 45 minutes
5 th Class	Up to 60 minutes
6 th Class	Up to 1hour 15 minutes

4.7 Communication of Homework

Homework is written in the child's homework journal (1st-6th class) or sent home in their homework folder (infant classes). Parents/guardians should check their child's homework every evening. Homework journals should also be signed every evening.

4.8 Teacher Monitoring of Homework

In most instances, class teachers monitor homework daily. As pupils get older and learn to work more independently, some items of homework may be monitored less often, e.g. every second day/once per week. Some items of homework may be checked by the pupils themselves, under the direction of the class teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process of the children.

When homework is not completed or the child has not made a suitable effort, the child must do the homework that evening along with the current day's homework. If homework is not completed regularly, the teacher contacts parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parents and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.



4.9 Parent Monitoring of Homework

Parents should check and sign their child's homework journal every evening. The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between home and school.

Please check that your child records their homework neatly and ticks each item of homework when completed. Please review your child's written work, ensuring that they have drawn margins and inserted dates etc. Reading and learning homework should also be monitored. Any issues regarding homework should be brought to the attention of the class teacher.

4.10 Communicating with the Class Teacher about Homework

Parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate with the class teacher in the following circumstances:

- If the child cannot do their homework due to unforeseen/family circumstances.
- If the child cannot do their homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect of the work assigned.
- If the time being spent at homework is regularly exceeds the recommended amount of time for their class level.
- If the completion of homework is regularly a stressful experience for child and parent.

5. Success Criteria

The successful implementation of this policy will result in:

- A shared understanding by pupils, parents/guardians and teachers regarding homework practices in our school.
- Pupils consistently completing homework on time and to a high standard.
- Positive progress in pupils' learning and in their confidence in themselves as learners.
- A reduction in possible pressures on pupils and/or parents/guardians regarding homework and effective intervention where homework is proving to be consistently challenging.

6. Ratification & Communication

This Homework Policy was ratified following a meeting of the Board of Management on 11th of February 2025 following consultation with staff, parents/guardians and pupils. It has been made available to school personnel and is published on the school website.

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7. Monitoring & Evaluation

The implementation of this Homework Policy will be monitored by the Principal and the relevant A.P. and the Board of Management in consultation with staff and parents/guardians.

Chairperson of Board of Management

Principal/Secretary to Board of Management

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