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HOMEWORK POLICY

Aims:

- To consolidate work being done at school
- To keep parents in touch and involved in their children's work
- To develop and encourage the habit of independent study

Guidelines for Teachers:

- Homework should be an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to consolidate work done - not as an exercise in isolation
- Homework should never be given unless the teacher has thoroughly prepared and explained what is to be done.
- Homework must be consistent - a small amount and given in such a way as to form a pattern for the children so that they are more likely to remember it.
- Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur.
- In the event of a parent not wishing that their child would participate in homework activities, a letter must be forwarded to the school expressing this wish and must be kept on school files.

Guidelines for Parents:

Parents are encouraged to:

- To be interested in, support and encourage their child's school work by checking homework is complete and journals are signed.
- Establish a set routine and time for the child to do his/her homework, in a quiet place free from distractions
- Supervise children's homework, checking and signing it on completion
- Help and encourage the child but not to do the homework for him/her
- Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

Time:

Allotted time that teachers expect the average child in each class to spend at homework:

Junior Infants	10 - 15 minutes
Senior Infants	15 - 25 minutes
First and Second	No more than 30 minutes
Third and Fourth	30 - 45 minutes
Fifth class	30- 45 minutes
Sixth class	1 hour (max.)

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends; however, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

Review:

This policy will be referred to regularly to check that it is being consistently implemented by all staff. Policy will be reviewed by staff annually.

