



St Patrick's N.S. Homework Policy

As is stated in our vision statement, we here in St. Patrick's N.S. seek to enable each child to develop to his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and to take responsibility for their assignments. It provides an opportunity for parents to monitor what their children are doing in school.

We hope this policy will

- a) Benefit pupil learning
- b) Reinforce work done in class
- c) Develop study skills
- d) Promote a similar approach to homework across all classes
- e) Strengthen links between home and school

All classes will get homework appropriate to their capability. Activities might include English and Irish, reading and spellings, tables, written English and Irish, written exercises in history, geography, science and nature or religion. The children may be asked to do some research work or written work depending on the topic in school. Children attending SET may be given reinforcement activities.

Homework is selected to complement work done in class. Children write their homework in their homework journals, apart from the infant class. The infant class receive a sheet with the homework written out.

Homework is given every night Mon-Thurs.

There is no homework at the weekend.

Every child is entitled to a 'homework pass' on the day of their birthday. If the birthday falls on a Friday or a weekend, the child will have no homework on the next school day.

For children whose birthdays occur during the summer months, their homework off will be given in September.

Homework passes may be selected when a pupil earns a 'Lucky Dip'.

However only 1 homework pass may be used in any given week.

A general guideline for time spent on homework is 10-15 minutes for infants, approx 20 minutes for 1st - 3rd class and up to one hour for 4th - 6th classes.

If homework is not done without a valid explanation, the teacher will highlight the incomplete homework in the child's homework journal and it should be done that night.

Homework is the link between school and home. We would encourage parents to check the homework and offer assistance if needed but **not to do** homework for the children.

If a child is having difficulty with homework, then the parent should write a note in the homework journal explaining the child's difficulty or contact the class teacher.

Success Criteria

Ensure homework is corrected regularly.

Have parents sign homework journal every night.

Tips for Parents re. homework

- Establish a routine for homework. We recommend that homework should be done early in the evening in a place free from distractions such as the T.V.
- Each child will have a homework folder.
- As a general rule, every child is given homework each weekday night.
- Junior Infants will not be given written homework until after Halloween.
- Parents are asked to ensure that their children complete the homework each night. In the event of the homework not being attempted or completed, teachers may insist that the homework is completed during some of the breaks or it may be completed fully that evening at home.
- Where exceptional circumstances prevent the completion of homework, please forward an explanatory note to the teacher.
- Do not do the child's homework for him/her. Work set for homework will have been prepared in class. Please check your child's homework for neatness and help him/her identify mistakes.
- Changes have taken place in the way in which certain areas of Maths are being taught. In helping your child, please adhere to the methods being used in the school. Providing alternative methods may lead to confusion for the child.
- Oral work is as important as written work. Please listen to your child read and examine tables and spelling.
- Parents are asked to sign the child's homework journal when they are satisfied that homework is completed to the best of the child's ability.
- Parents are asked to sign assessments to be aware of how their children are progressing.

The policy has been implemented since January 2004.

This policy was reviewed by the BOM at a Zoom meeting on 27th May 2020 and was reviewed again in February 2025.

Signed: Seamus Ó hÉanaigh
Chairperson BOM

Date: 25/2/2025