

*St. Philomena's*  
*Girls' National School*  
*Tullamore*



*Homework Policy*

Drafted: March 23

The Board of Management of St. Philomena's NS recognises the importance of homework in creating and maintaining the link between school and home. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) can monitor the progress of their child/ren through homework diaries and liaising with teachers.

**Rationale:**

This policy was drafted because we, as a staff, felt that a consistent approach to homework across the school was a necessary step in reviewing a whole school approach to homework in general.

**Aim**

It is our aim in St. Philomena's to provide a curriculum for all which develops a love of learning within each of our pupils. Our homework policy supports this ethos by seeking to enable each pupil to work independently and take responsibility for their own learning.

The broad aims of this homework policy are to:

- re-inforce what the child has learned during the day
- provide a link between home and school
- develop and encourage the habit of independent study
- enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable

**Reasons for Prescribing Homework**

- To consolidate work already undertaken in school. Homework should be an exercise in revision.
- To encourage pupils to become independent and self-directed learners.
- To develop study skills and routines around homework.

**Assignment of Homework / Role of Teachers**

- Homework is assigned from Monday to Thursday as a rule, unless
  - Homework has not been done during the week
  - Involves project 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
- Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur. Teachers will also differentiate homework as appropriate for pupils with additional needs.
- Where a pupil receives homework from their SET teacher, the class teacher and SET will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive.
- Homework for pupils in An Cuan is at the discretion of the class teacher in collaboration with parents

### **Time Allocation for completing homework**

- An Cuan 10 – 15 minutes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class 30 – 40 minutes
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class 40 – 60 minutes

Homework should not exceed the times indicated above

### ***Remember***

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

### **Homework Journal**

The homework journal is an important means of communication between home and school. Homework is taken down in the homework journal and parents/guardians are expected to sign the journal when all homework activities are completed. Homework journals are checked by 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class teachers on a daily basis insofar as possible. However, in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes, weekly checks will be carried out.

### **Role of Pupils**

It is expected that pupils will:

- Return their homework on time and to a high standard
- Complete and present their homework to the best of their ability
- Appreciate that study tasks and learning spellings and tables are as important as written tasks.

### **Role of Parents/Guardians**

The school encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. Parents are encouraged to:

- Establish a set routine and time for your child to do his/her homework
- Supervise children's homework - checking homework when it is completed.
- Encourage your child to work independently as they should be able to complete most of their homework with minimal support.
- Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Remember that time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Please let your child's class teacher know if homework needs to be differentiated.

### Success Criteria

The success criteria of this policy will be determined by feedback from parents, pupils and teachers. This will be sought at Parent/ Teacher meetings, staff meeting and verbal feedback from pupils during the first term of 2024.

### Responsibilities

Class Teachers/SETs assign homework, taking into consideration the recommended time allocation for homework and monitors it on a regular basis. Pupils are responsible for taking down homework in their homework journal and taking home all the necessary books, copies and equipment necessary to complete the homework. Parents are responsible for providing a suitable place, free of distractions, for their child to do their homework. They are also responsible for monitoring the homework process at home and ensuring that all homework is complete to the best of the child's ability. Parents are responsible for communicating when difficulties arise. Principal is responsible for the implementation of this policy and for its review.

### **COMMUNICATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW:**

This policy will be communicated to staff and school community as appropriate, and will be subject to review every three years, unless there is a compelling reason to review it earlier.

Signed:

Date:

Principal



Signed:



Date: 23/3/23

Chairperson, Board of Management