



Homework Policy

June 2023



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DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND SKILLS



Introduction:

The Board of Management of Mercy Convent Primary School recognises homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries and liaison with teachers.

Aims:

In general, the broad aims of this homework policy are to:

- promote the use of homework to consolidate learning and work being done at school
- promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all teachers and class levels
- keep parents in touch and involved in their child's/ children's education
- develop and encourage the habit of independent study to the best of their ability
- enable children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence
- enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable
- further develop links between home and school

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. Teachers will also differentiate homework as appropriate for pupils with additional needs.
- Homework contains a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks – this can vary day to day.
- Allotted time that teachers are to expect the average child in each class to spend at homework
 - Infants 10 – 15 minutes
 - 1st & 2nd Class 20 – 30 minutes
 - 3rd & 4th Class 30 – 40 minutes
 - 5th & 6th Class 40 – 60 minutes
- 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 should not exceed the times indicated above.
- Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends with certain exceptions:
 - If homework has been neglected during the week.
 - In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends

- Occasionally, at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, children are given a "homework pass" (homework off) as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Incomplete homework should be noted in the pupil's diary/ teacher diary.

Guidelines for pupils:

Pupils are encouraged to:

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary (1st – 6th class)
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies
- Return their homework on time.
- 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.
- Bring a note to school explaining why a task is incomplete, if homework has not been completed.

Guidelines for Parents/Guardians:

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to:

- Establish a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and screens.
- Provide your child with good lighting and necessary materials such as pencils, coloured pencils, paper and a dictionary.
- Allow children to work independently as they should be able to complete most of their homework with minimal support. Resist overt-helping.
- Ask your child to describe the assignment before beginning and later show you the completed work or summarize what he or she learned
- If your child becomes frustrated put the assignment away for a while
- Supervise children's homework, checking the homework when it is completed.
- Sign their child's/ children's homework diary each night.
- 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.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally, teachers check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers, it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day. As pupils get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once a week. Pupils themselves, under the direction of the

teacher, may check some items of homework (and class work). This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

What happens when homework is not completed?

When homework is not done regularly without written notification as to the reason from parents/guardians, the teacher contacts parents with a view to discussing the matter – understanding the problem and resolving the situation. It is only when the problem is identified that actions required to help resolve it can be taken by the pupil, parents/guardians and teacher. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Implementation

This policy supersedes the previous policy and is effective from June 2023.

Ratification and Communication

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in 27 June 2023.

Timetable for Review

The policy will be reviewed every three years (or as circumstances may warrant) and amended as necessary by means of a whole school collaborative process.

Ratification & Communication

This homework policy was officially ratified by the Board of Management in June 2023. This policy has been made available to school personnel through a central shared folder. Parents can request a copy from the office and a folder of all school policies is available from the school office.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 27 June 2023

Signed: 
Secretary / Principal

Date: 27 June 2023

Date of next review: **June 2026**