



Presentation Primary School Bandon



Homework Policy

Introductory Statement

The staff of Presentation Primary School drafted this policy in March 2012.

Rationale:

- There is no up –to date policy in the school.
- The staff wish to have a common policy in relation to homework in the school.

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school:

Presentation Primary School seeks to enable each pupil to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.

Aims of Policy:

- Guide to parents in monitoring of their child's homework, encourage parental involvement, promote home-school links.
- To benefit pupil learning.
- To reinforce work done in class.
- To develop study skills.
- To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes.
- To enable class teachers to consult with support personnel regarding differentiated homework for special needs/exceptionally able pupils.
- To inform temporary/substitute teaching staff of school policy.

General Guidelines:

- Parents are expected to check the homework journal daily to ensure homework has been fully completed.
- Parents must sign homework journal/homework sheets daily.
- If set homework is not completed on the required day, parents need to send note explaining same. Incomplete homework must be done by child and presented to teacher the following day. If homework is well done, this is positively reinforced.
- All classes generally get homework from Monday to Thursday. Junior infants get no homework for the month of September.
- All pupils will not get the same homework – provision is made for pupils with special needs/language difficulties. Arrangements can be made between class teacher & resource/learning support teacher for pupils on differentiated programmes.

- There is a balance between oral, reading and written work.
- Homework is seen as reinforcement of work done in class.
- First classes and upwards have a homework journal.
- Teachers will check the homework journal regularly.
- Teachers will check that homework is completed and corrected on a regular basis.
- Homework is written down by pupils in the homework journal at the discretion of the teacher. E.g. at the end of the day or following lesson.

Suggested length of time:

- Junior Infants/Senior Infants – 10 minutes
- First/Second Class – 20 – 30 minutes
- Third/Fourth Class – 30 – 40 minutes
- Fifth Class – 40 – 50 minutes
- Sixth Class – 50 – 60 minutes

- Homework can be linked as part of the system of rewards/sanctions. eg. Full attendance, exceptional positive behaviour. The school favours positive reinforcement.
- Senior pupils are taught study skills and strategies to assist them with their homework.
- Teacher should outline relevant expectations regarding homework at parent/teacher meetings e.g. time spent on homework, sign journal etc.
- Family circumstances are taken into consideration.

Pupils:

- Homework is the responsibility of the pupil in relation to the homework she is given. However in Junior Classes parents will have to help them more.
- If pupils are having a problem with homework they are encouraged to attempt the homework and if unable to complete assignment they are to ask the teacher.

Types of Homework:

Homework will vary but these are general guidelines on types of homework given in the different classes:

- Junior Infants: a book for parents to read with pupil, some writing practice of letters and numbers (Book – Monday and Wednesday, Writing on Tuesday. After Christmas a little more).
- Senior Infants: Reading and some writing practice.
- First Class: Reading, spellings, tables. Written homework and sums after Christmas.
- Second: Reading, Spellings, Maths, Tables, Written work or learning preparation for sacraments.
- Third, Fourth Classes: English and Irish Reading, English and Irish Spellings, Tables, Maths, written work and project work.
- Fifth, Sixth Classes: English and Irish Reading, spellings, writing, tables, maths, some learning or art, project work, preparation for sacraments.
- Special Class: Reading and writing/Speech and Language programmes.

Parents/Guardians:

- Parents/Guardians can help establish a routine for doing homework – quiet place, a set time – early in evening, try to prevent interruptions.
- Parents of pupils in Junior Classes have to help their children do their homework as it involves shared reading. In other classes the parents should check the homework and examine it.
- If there are difficulties with homework the parent can provide further explanation or do easier examples. The parent should write a note in the homework journal explaining the problem that arose. It is essential that the parent/pupil should inform the teacher.

- The school takes into consideration the language, literacy levels etc, of individual families.

Success Criteria:

- Feedback from teachers, pupils, parents.
- Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils.

Role and Responsibility:

- The class teacher, the pupils, the principal and parents/guardians all have a responsibility towards implementing this policy.

Implementation Policy:

- This policy will be circulated to Staff & BOM for ratification and it is hoped it will be in operation from April 2012 onwards.

Timetable for Review:

- This policy will be due for review in the school year 2014.

Ratification and Communication:

- The Board of Management ratified this policy.
- The policy will be circulated among members of school community.

Date:

Chairman, Board of Manangement