

Homework Policy

St Michael's n.s. Roll : 18388f.

Homework is seen as a positive experience for children. It is normally assigned on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Pupils are expected to complete homework assignments neatly and to the best of their ability. The amount of homework will vary according to the age and learning needs of the pupil. When parents take an active interest in what the children are doing, homework tends to be completed to a higher standard and more regularly. Homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to the development of sound study habits.

1.

Why give homework?

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between parent and teacher.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.

Homework is meant to be achievable by the child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the class teacher. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability – no more, no less.

2.

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are some exceptions:

- If homework has been neglected during the week.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgement of some occasion.
- Please note extra homework may be given during the week or weekends if a child has not done homework, not made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

3.

What is the content of homework?

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading, learning and written tasks.

This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is just as important as written 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.

Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is well done.

4.

How much (time) for homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality not the quantity of homework that matters.

The following are general guidelines only:

Junior/senior infants	up to 20 minutes.
First class	up to 30 minutes.
Second class	up to 40 minutes.
Third and fourth class	up to 1 hour.
Fifth and sixth class	up to 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a schoolday before a public holiday. However children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

If a child spends an inordinate amount of time at homework, please discuss the issue with the teacher.

5.

How much help should parents give:

Parents should try to help their children with homework by providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework and to prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children.

Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.

If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

Parents are asked especially to listen to their children reading on a nightly basis.

Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it is not an enjoyable experience, shared reading should not be done.

6.

How often do parents monitor homework?

Parents should check and sign a child`s homework journal every evening. The pupil`s journal is an important record of the child`s homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.

Please check that your child records its homework neatly in the correct page and tick each item of homework when completed.

7.

When should parents communicate with teachers about homework?

When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.

When your child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspect.

If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

Each family situation is different.

8.

When should homework be done?

Ideally homework should be done before any television is watched, soon after school, while your child is still fresh. However, some children need a break before starting homework. Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child then 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.