

Waterpark National School

Homework Policy

Why do we give homework?

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

- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child. It provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. 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 individual ability – no more, no less.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, but not on Fridays. Normally there is no homework on a school day just before a public holiday. There are exceptions to this which include if homework has been neglected during the week or perhaps in senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.

- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.

- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, has not made a suitable effort or has presented untidy work.

- Failure to do homework will be recorded and brought to the attention of parents. Failure to do homework is regarded as a breach of school rules.

What is the content of homework?

Ideally homework will contain a balance between:

- reading tasks
- learning tasks
- written tasks

This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, please note that homework time devoted to reading and learning is 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 and by ensuring this work is done well.

Seesaw is an online platform that is used across the school in a variety of ways for both schoolwork and homework. It is a portfolio of children’s work.

How much time should a child spend doing homework?

Every child is different. Different children will complete the same 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 and not the quantity of homework that matters.* It is assumed that the time spent doing homework will be free from television and other distractions.

The following times are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	Up to 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 1 hour
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour and 15 minutes
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour and 30minutes

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.
 - 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, if possible, help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples. The parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem. However, it is very important that parents understand that they should never do the homework for the child themselves.

- 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's not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.
- Parents are requested to supervise the uploading of homework to Seesaw where necessary.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening.
- The homework journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal. (Additional pages are available at the end of the journal).
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly on the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- Children will be expected to present a standard of written work on par with their ability. Neatness is to be encouraged from the beginning.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis where possible. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework every day.

As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week.

Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

Teachers may also correct homework via Seesaw at a time that is convenient to them i.e. it may not be on the day that the homework was uploaded.

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- When the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

Parents will be informed when books need to be returned to school as there is a quarantine procedure in place for books travelling from home.

When should homework be done?

Each family situation is different.

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. Each family situation is different.

Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Parents should try to ensure that homework is completed when it is assigned, as a buildup of homework can lead to children feeling overwhelmed.

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.*

Ratification of Policy

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Waterpark National School at a Board meeting held on Wednesday 9th December 2020.