****

**St Michael’s NS,**

**Donaghmoyne, Telephone: 042 9662284**

**Carrickmacross, Email: stmichaelsnsdonaghmoyne@gmail.com**

**Co. Monaghan, Website:** [**www.stmichaelsns.ie**](http://www.stmichaelsns.ie)

**A81 EA37.**

***Principal: Ms F Whelan***

***Vice Principal: Mrs R Campbell***

**Homework Policy**

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. This policy attempts to further strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. The homework policy of St. Michael’s National School has been formulated by staff endorsed by the Board of Management.

**Rationale**

The need to draft a school homework policy can be attributed to the following;

* Further strengthening of home-school links
* Reinforcing the learning experienced by the child during the school day
* Ensuring clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework

**Relationship to School Ethos**

* It is the policy of the school to, as far as is possible, identify all the needs of the pupil and put in place measures to adequately cater for their needs
* The school also encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. The homework policy of the school facilitates these ideals.

**Aims and Objectives**

The primary objectives of the policy are:

* To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work
* To enable the children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence
* To enhance self-esteem through the provision of work that the child can manage comfortably at home
* To foster self-discipline and study skills
* To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes
* To further develop links between home and school

**Resources**

* Homework Diary / Homework Sheets
* Blackboard / Whiteboard
* Work sheets, textbooks, folders, exercise copies etc.
* I.C.T.

**Policy Content**

It is school policy to assign appropriate class-related levels of homework as an important reinforcement in the learning process. Good study habits are fostered, independent learning is promoted and self-discipline is developed. Homework is normally given at a set time daily, and this is at the discretion of each classroom teacher. Adequate time to write down homework is provided. Below are the approximate allocations for our school. However, these are merely a guideline and may differ on occasion or depending on capabilities and ability of the individual child.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Approximate Time Allocations** |
| Junior Infants | Up to 20 minutes |
| Senior Infants | Up to 20 minutes |
| First Class | Up to 30 minutes |
| Second Class | Up to 30 minutes |
| Third Class | Up to 40 minutes |
| Fourth Class | Up to 40 minutes |
| Fifth Class | Up to 60 minutes |
| Sixth Class | Up to 60 minutes |

* Homework is generally based on class related work or work already covered in class. It should contain a balance between reading, learning and writing. Time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
* The assigned homework is explained to children in advance. The different levels of the pupils are also taken into account and differentiation of task is initiated where relevant.
* Student’s individual needs and abilities will be taken into consideration by class teachers, and every effort will be made to differentiate and allocate appropriate homework, which allows each child to achieve success and promote a sense of self belief.
* Homework is given from Mondays to Thursdays and generally is not given at weekends unless it has been neglected during the week, or unless exceptional circumstances such as projects or book weeks occur.
* Homework is not linked to behaviour but occasionally children are rewarded with reduced homework if they have worked /behaved well. Additional homework may be given to children if they continuously present incomplete, unsatisfactory homework to their teacher. A note will be issued to parents explaining this.
* It is not school policy to issue homework as an exercise in isolation. It will in most instances be an integral part of the subject being taught and be consistent.
* The Special Educational Needs Teacher will give homework to her allocated pupils but only as a reinforcement of class work. Reading is routinely given as homework and should be accorded priority consideration.
* If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher. If homework cannot be completed on a particular night, parents are asked to forward a written note / email.
* Teachers check homework on a daily basis. Some homework may be self-corrected. Children who do not complete homework satisfactorily may be required to re do this work the following night. Parents are advised to supervise and check homework nightly
* Some children may have a homework diary which parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent, along with email
* “A Homework pass” may be given at the discretion of the class teacher or principal. In general, all school homework will encompass a wide spectrum of learning experiences such as reading, writing, tables, spelling, learning ‘by heart’, drawing, collecting information, colouring and finishing class work.
* As a school rule, teachers will not be able to facilitate parents in their request for specifically assigned homework for children who may be taken out of school during the academic year for holidays. If parents feel that their child has missed out on work as a result of non-attendance, it is their responsibility to assist their child to catch up. Teachers can only be responsible for the provision of education to pupils while they are in attendance.

**Procedures for Parents**

* Provide suitable comfortable facilities.
* Remove distractions – T.V. younger siblings etc.
* Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
* Parents **should not** do the homework for their children.
* Send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises. This can be done through the homework diary or via email.
* Check and sign homework diaries.
* Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time.
* As children tire towards late evening, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible.
* Discourage morning homework.
* Parents should have a stock of rulers, pencils, rubbers, table books etc. available should the need arise.

**Evaluation**

* In-class corrections
* Checking homework diaries
* Parent – Teacher meetings
* Teacher designated tests
* Pupil profiling
* Teacher observation
* Feedback from parents and pupils
* General air of satisfaction

**Roles and Responsibilities/Implementation**

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy from pupils, parents, staff and the Board of Management.

**Ratification/Communication**

The policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management in October 2022.

**References**

The Essential Parents Guide to the Primary school years. - Brian Gilsenan

Your Child in the Primary school - INTO

Your Child’s Learning - DES Primary School Curriculum

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson)

Date: October 2022