St. Francis of Assisi Primary School

Homework Policy 2014

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*“Research consistently demonstrates that where parents are involved with their children’s education and learning both at home and in partnership with the school, their children do better and achieve more. These benefits can be long-lasting and extend to better health, relationships and improved employment prospects.”*

**This policy aims to explain to all involved in children’s learning, including the child, how homework will operate at St. Francis of Assisi Primary School.**

**Why is homework important?**

* It consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding learnt in school;
* It extends school learning, for example through additional reading;
* It provides opportunities for children to use out of school resources (e.g. books and Information Technology) found in the home or other places such as libraries;
* It fosters true partnership between the school and parents as we work together to develop our children’s learning.
* It helps develop the confidence and self-discipline the child needs to study on their own**.**

**Who is involved in supporting children?**

Homework is an important partnership between teacher, child and parents. This policy document can explain how you as a parent can:

* know what the school expects from your child
* know what the school asks from you
* contact someone if you want more information or are concerned about homework.

**TYPE AND QUANTITY OF HOMEWORK**

Homework in primary schools is used to allow children to practise work and skills learned in the classroom. It can take the form of reading, writing or mathematics but may also include activities such as drawing, talking or research.

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| Class | Common Types of Homework | Completion Times |
| P1 - 3  | Daily reading (frequency will depend on ability level and stage of development) Key words Sounds practice Spelling activities Maths activities Simple research Language activities Topic-related Activities Simple Science Experiments Art/Technology Tasks Health and Wellbeing Tasks Music-related Activities  | 15 – 20 minutes per day  |
| P4 - 7 | Weekly reading (frequency will depend on ability level and stage of development) Spelling activities Maths activities including tables practice Research activities Language activities Topic-related Activities Simple Science Experiments Art/Technology Tasks Health and Wellbeing Tasks Music-related Activities  | 20 – 30 minutes per day  |

At times throughout the year, other tasks will be issued which will **NOT** require to be returned within the weekly format. You will be informed of this through the **HOMEWORK DIARY.** These tasks could include**:** Science/ Technology topics, model making etc.

**FORMAT OF HOMEWORK**

In St. Francis of Assisi P.S., our homework throughout the school, from P.1-7 will follow the same pattern:

* Homework will be issued **WEEKLY** on a **MONDAY to be returned by the FRIDAY.** Reading books and/ or word lists should be brought to school every day.
* Homework tasks will be attached to the **HOMEWORK DIARY** in order that parents/carers will know at a glance what tasks have to be completed across the week. This will allow homework to be completed at a convenient time.
* The **HOMEWORK DIARY** will be used as a **HOME – SCHOOL** link to allow parents and teachers to communicate any relevant information.
* If any further tasks are needed to reinforce a topic or concept outwith the weekly homework, the teacher will mark this in the homework diary, and children will be issued with this during the week.
* On the rare occasion that children do not complete homework, a letter will be issued alerting parents/carers to this fact and we would ask for your support in encouraging tasks to be completed.

**We are mindful that children have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. Our policy and practice therefore recognises the need for the children to have time to be children!**