

## **St. Paul's N.S**

### **Members of Working Group**

- Mary Bourke
- Olga McNulty
- Ruth Nairn
- Zara Browne
- Pupils
- Parents
- Board of Management

### **Relationship to the characteristic spirit of the school**

Our school aims to cherish all pupils equally and to aid them in achieving their true potential. Parents, teachers, pupils, and members of the Board of Management are all partners helping each other to get the best possible results from the homework being handed in to St. Paul's N.S Collooney.

### **The Purpose of Homework**

- To reinforce the skills or concepts being learnt in school.
- To keep parents in touch and involved in their children's work.
- To enable children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence.
- To assess the child's ability to complete a task in isolation from the support of his/her class teacher.

### **Expectations**

- A pupil is expected to present a neat written exercise done by the pupil with a little direction from the parent.
- In junior classes, the parents are required to give more help, especially in the area of reading e.g. Jolly Phonics sounds.
- Children are expected to complete their homework to the best of their ability.
- Return their homework on time.

### **Content of Homework**

- Ideally, homework will consist of a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks, physical activities and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary from day to day. It should be noted that time spent on reading and learning is as important as time spent on written work.
- Homework will regularly consist of reading, spellings, tables, written work, 'learning off by heart', physical activities, drawing, colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Homework may be differentiated.

### **How often is homework given?**

- Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. There are two exceptions which involve homework at weekends.
  - (a) If class work/ homework has been neglected during the week and
  - (b) Some project work may be undertaken at weekends.

- No homework will be given in June.
- Sometimes at the teacher's discretion, the children might get a night off homework for various reasons, which may include a pupil's birthday, reward for excellent effort, extra good behaviour or a class outing etc...
- Children may have no homework when representing the school in the evenings at sporting events, concerts, quizzes etc...

### **How much time for homework?**

Taking into consideration the fact the children work at different paces the following are **guidelines** for time spent at homework. It is important to bear in mind that it is quality of the homework and not the quantity that is important.

Infants	10 to 20 minutes
1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	20 to 30 minutes
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Class	30 to 40 minutes
5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Class	not exceeding one hour

### **Guidelines for Parents**

- Provide children with a suitable place and time to do homework without the distractions of T.V, radio 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.
- Shared reading or paired reading is an exercise that is worthwhile apart from the normal reading homework i.e. parent and child take turns and parents help with the difficult words.
- Parents should check and sign the pupil's homework journal each day. Once you the parent/guardian have signed the journal this signifies that you have checked the homework and are happy with the time/effort spent by your child. If the homework is repeatedly not completed to a standard that reflects the child's ability then a parent teacher meeting will be arranged to discuss the issue.
- If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher.

### **Review**

- **Roles and Responsibilities**

It will be necessary to review this plan on a regular basis to ensure optimum implementation of the Homework policy in the school. Staff are responsible for co-ordinating this review.

Those involved in the review will include

Teachers

Pupils

Parents

BoM / DES / Others

- **Timeframe**

This plan will be implemented in September 2020  
This plan will be reviewed in June 2022.

**Ratification and Communication**

The Board of Management of St. Paul's N.S. ratified this plan on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

Signed Canon Andrew Ison

Date 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020