

Homework Policy



St Benignus NS, Balscadden

1.0 Introduction

This policy was developed using a consultative approach with the school community. Following on from parent questionnaires, further face to face consultation was undertaken at the Parents' Association AGM as well as a focus group of parents who met with the school principal. A draft policy was agreed with staff and following further consultation with the Parents' Association the final draft of the policy was ratified by the Board of Management. This policy clearly sets out the school's approach to homework from the perspectives of children, parents and staff.

2.0 The policy's relationship to the school's mission statement and ethos

St Benignus NS aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and other people. We endeavour to promote a strong link between home and school and we believe that this policy is central to that aim.

3.0 Aims of this policy

3.1 To take a partnership approach to homework between home and school.

3.2 To ensure that homework reinforces the learning of the children at school and at home.

3.3 To ensure that the children build skills of independence at doing school work at home and grow in their self-confidence and self-esteem.

3.4 To promote consistency and uniformity of approach to homework with all teachers and class levels.

3.5 To ensure that parents have a good sense of how their child is performing at their school work.

5.0 Guidelines for parents/guardians

5.1 Children should do their homework soon after coming home on a desk/table, in a quiet space free from distractions. Children should not be allowed have screen time until they have completed their homework.

5.2 Parents/guardians should sign the Homework Journal and Reading Sheet daily (1st Class- 6th Class) but only after they have checked that the homework has been completed. Children should read aloud to an adult daily (SI-6th Class) and then get the Reading Sheet signed. Reading aloud is a particular skill in its own right that needs to be developed.

5.3 Parents/guardians should ensure that both written work, learning work and reading is completed.

5.4 Parents/guardians should support their child's homework but allow them to do as much as possible independently. This will depend on the individual child. Being supportive and encouraging as a parent/guardian will be hugely beneficial to your child's completion of homework tasks. If you are unsure about the level of support you need to give your child you should always consult with the class teacher.

5.5 If your child is experiencing stress or anxiety due to homework this must be communicated to the class teacher so an effective plan can be put in place for this pupil. As a school we always work in co-operation with parents/guardians. Where a child has reached their limit on a given evening the parents/guardians should make a call on it and finish up. The parent/guardian can then put a note in the homework journal or email the teacher so that the teacher is aware.

6.0 Guidelines for children

- Do your homework soon after getting home.
- Do it in a quiet space free of distractions.
- No screen time until all homework is finished.
- Return your homework on time.
- Complete and present homework to the best of your ability.
- Ensure that your Homework Journal and Reading Sheet are signed by someone at home (parent/guardian) daily.

7.0 Children with Additional Needs

7.1 Children with additional needs will have accommodations made. These accommodations will be agreed between the class teacher and the parents early in the school year and reviewed as the year progresses.

7.2The class teacher and the SET will collaborate regarding the nature and type of homework given to children with additional needs.

7.3Any child who attends a weekly DAI Dyslexia Workshop will have no homework on that evening. Children attending after school Speech and Language sessions, Occupational Therapy sessions, etc should also inform the class teacher so that accommodations can be made.

7.4Children with Assistive Technology will be able to use that technology for their homework.

8.0Communication and Sanctions

8.1Teachers will communicate the homework to be done through Google Classroom and the children will write it into their Homework Journal (1st Class-6th Class).

8.2If a child has not completed their homework a parent/guardian should provide a note to the teacher. This can be written in the Homework Journal, sent by email or sent on Google Classroom.

8.3Where homework is not completed, and no reasonable explanation is given, the teacher may choose to use sanctions, such as asking the child to complete the assigned homework in class. Sanctions will be in line with the school's Code of Good Behaviour.

8.4Where there is a regular issue with homework the teacher will contact the parents/guardians to try to develop a plan that will be effective for the pupil.

9.0 Special Arrangements

9.1There will be no written homework if any Dublin GAA senior team wins the All-Ireland final. In the case where any Dublin GAA senior team does the '5 in a row' there will be a week off written homework.

9.2When a child's birthday falls on a homework day, the whole class will have the night off written homework.

9.3There will be no written homework for the first week back after the summer holidays.

9.3There will be greater variety in the homework during the month of June to reflect the weather and the time of the year. This may include but is not limited to project work, IT projects, 'Teach the Teacher' initiatives, Active Homework etc.

9.4There will be no written homework on the day we celebrate St Benignus Day, the day of the Christmas performance, Craft Day and Sports Day.

Reviewed 2/10/2023

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on _____ (date)

Signed: _____
Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Principal

Date: _____