

## HOMWORK POLICY

### Principles behind homework:

1. To keep parents informed about what their child is doing in school and how he/she is coping with the tasks. This is a two-way communication and it is important that parents inform the teacher if they notice that the child has not mastered a particular task or concept.
2. To give the child an opportunity to complete or extend work begun in class (for example a story or project).
3. To reinforce skills taught in class (e.g. computation, writing, spelling).
4. To enable pupils to do research (both oral and written) that may not be possible in school. (e.g. family tree for history or use of the public library).
5. To give pupils the practice they need at practical tasks (e.g. measuring rooms, distance in a car etc.).
6. To maximise the amount of oral work a child engages in talking, listening, questioning and reasoning.

### Notes for parents re homework supervision:

Because pupils have varying levels of ability and concentration it is important that parents regulate the time their child works on homework tasks. We have set down maximum time guidelines to guide parents as to how long a child of a particular age/class should spend on homework per night. If a child is consistently spending considerably longer than that on homework, the parent should talk to the class teacher about it.

If a parent is not sure of the correct approach to a task or subject (e.g. maths) the he/she should look for advice from the class teacher. A general rule, in relation to maths homework, would be to use any practical materials you can get your hands on (e.g. counters) as an aid to your child in computation and problem solving.

Ideally, time needs to be set aside for homework before the child is tired and in a place which is free from distraction as is possible in a busy home. For younger children, a comfortable position (reading on parent's knee or with parent's arm around him/her) can make early learning a positive experience.

As they get older, pupils need to take responsibility for consistently completing tasks set them. To encourage good work habits for the future, it is important that children complete homework which they miss out on due to a leisure activity at the next available opportunity. When forgotten copies or books prevent the child from doing homework, having to complete an alternative piece of homework assigned by his/her parents (e.g. some revision, spellings, or a short written task) can prevent this becoming a habit.

It is very important to report any areas the child is having problems with to the teacher as soon as possible.

The homework journal is an efficient means of communication between teacher and parents. Signing homework every night also helps to affirm in the child's eyes the value of the work.

Wherever possible, please record in the journal the length of time your child takes to complete homework as this is a useful guide for the class teacher.