

St John Bosco Junior Boys' School

Homework Policy

Introduction

This policy was formulated in March 2013 by the Principal and staff in conjunction with parents and the Board of Management.

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is

- To explain and communicate the vision of St John Bosco Junior Boys' School in respect of homework.
- To maximize the benefit of homework to each child's learning.
- To ensure there is uniformity in the duration of homework assigned to classes in each year group.
- To promote positive home/school communication.

Relationship to our School Ethos

Our School Ethos states that we aim to provide a happy, secure and friendly learning environment where children, parents, teachers, ancillary staff and the Board of Management work in partnership, where each individual is valued, encouraged and respected for their uniqueness. It also states that it is our aspiration that the moral, academic, aesthetic, social, physical and emotional potential of the child can flourish, his self-esteem be enhanced and rightful dignity be afforded to each person. This policy seeks to further these aspirations in the area of homework.

Aims

This policy aims to

- Emphasise the centrality of reading and language as the key to learning.
- Give parents an insight into how their child is progressing at school.
- Strengthen links and communication between home and school.

- Promote consistency and a similar approach to homework across all classes.
- Develop and assist in establishing an appropriate routine for children in doing their homework.
- Reinforce work done in class - it allows for revision and practice.

Why give homework?

- To re-inforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability - no more, no less.

General Recommendations

- Homework may be given on all school days except Fridays.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "Homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
- Teachers check homework regularly, but not necessarily on a daily basis.
- Boys in 1st Class have a Homework Copy in which homework should be written. This should be signed by parents each evening.
- Curaclam na Bunscoile (1998) recommends that a guideline length of time a child should spend on homework is as follows:
Junior and Senior Infants - 10 to 15 minutes
1st Class - 20 to 30 minutes
- If a pupil is consistently spending more than the recommended amount of time on homework, parents should contact the class teacher.

Content of Homework

Junior Infants

- Sounds
- Sight words
- Reading

Senior Infants

- Sounds
- Sight Words
- Reading

First Class

- Sight Words
- Spellings
- Reading
- Written Task

From time to time supplementary work may be sent home where

- Pupils need additional practice.
- A pupil has missed work through absence from school.

Learning Support/Resource Pupils

Pupils attending Learning Support/Resource will be assigned homework by the LS/RT Teacher according to their individual needs. This homework is done instead of or in conjunction with the class homework depending on the needs/abilities of the child.

The child should read the book from the LS/RT teacher. The class reader should be read to the child by the parent.

The Role of the Parent

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- Preventing interruptions or distractions, like T.V. 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.
Parents should check and sign a child's Reading Record every evening.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in March 2013.

Signed: _____

Date: _____