

ST. GABRIEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework occupies an important place in the educational process and is a feature of the learning programme of our school. Homework offers a means by which parents can become familiar with the school curriculum and be supportive of their child's learning. It represents a regular link between home and school and as such provides an opportunity for the development of practical partnership between parents, child and teacher.

Aims and objectives

The primary objectives of the policy are to:

- Reinforce and practise work already done in class.
- Foster self-discipline and study skills
- Develop a sense of responsibility and independence in the child.
- Test the child's understanding of work covered or competence in skills.
- Strengthen the educational partnership between home and school.
- Provide a means by which parents/guardians can become actively involved in their child's Primary School education.

Teachers will ensure that:

- Homework has a purpose and forms part of the planned programme of learning.
- The assigned work is familiar to the child and properly explained in advance.
- Homework is suited to the ability of the children so they can attempt each task.
- Homework is checked frequently and feedback is given to pupils.
- All work will be acknowledged and personal effort will count for more than perfection of results.
- Expectations regarding homework are explained to parents.

Approximate time per year level

Junior Infants 10 – 15 minutes

Senior Infants 10 – 15 minutes

1st & 2nd class 20 – 30 minutes

3rd & 4th class 30 – 40 minutes

5th & 6th class 50 – 60 minutes

The above times are guidelines. In practise, the time taken will depend on each individual child. If homework regularly takes longer than this, parents are advised to discuss this with the class teacher. Generally, homework is not given at weekends although there may be exceptions, particularly if it has been neglected during the week. If a child is too ill to attend school, homework will not be given. Similarly, school work will not normally be provided during pre-planned absences. However a list of learning activities and suggestions can be found on the school website. See Appendix 1.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The class teachers and the SEN teachers will work in collaboration when assigning homework to children who receive supplementary teaching. This ensures that there is not an excess or insufficient amount of homework given.

Discipline and homework

The school requires that homework should be checked each night and the homework or homework notebook signed by a parent or guardian. This ensures parents can fulfil their responsibility for the child's homework. If homework is not done the parent should give a written or verbal explanation to the class teacher. Where homework is consistently not completed and no explanation is sent by the parent we will first endeavour to identify the reasons however, in some cases, sanctions may be applied.

Homework Journal

In senior classes a homework journal is used to record homework and act as a means of communication between home and school. All notes in relation to absences from school, dental appointments, late arrival can be recorded in the journal. Teachers may communicate messages through the journals and Parents should check the journal each day.

Role of Parents

Parents play a central part in encouragement, observation and review. Parents' interest and attitudes are a key factor in their children's educational progress. To ensure that there is a clear and common understanding, a class meeting is usually held at the beginning of the school year at which the homework policy and class procedures are explained to parents by the class teacher. Parents may also communicate with regard to homework via Aladdin, class Dojo, phone, or email.

Parents are requested to:

- Establish a set routine and time for the child to do his/her homework, in a quiet place free from distractions
- Supervise children's homework, checking and signing it on completion
- Ensure that the child sits at a table to produce neat work/ good handwriting
- Help and encourage the child but not to do the homework for him/her
- Ask children to recite tables, poems, spellings etc. that have to be learned by heart
- Listen to the child's reading and sign and check the written work even if s/he has attended a homework club/crèche or completed the homework elsewhere
- Contact the teacher if homework has not been completed
- Meet with the class teacher/homework club leaders and discuss any concerns.

Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management as necessary and at least within a four-year period.

Signature



Signed on behalf of the Board of Management: Maighread Gallagher O.P.

Date: 25/05/2022

APPENDIX 1
ST GABRIELS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRE-PLANNED ABSENCES, SUGGESTIONS FOR LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Homework and schoolwork is an integral part of school daily lessons, which involve much active learning, pair work, and problem solving and as such learning is not a stand-alone activity that can be pre-planned for pupil absences. However, here are some suggestions that may help to minimise the loss of learning while missing time from school:

1. At the planning stage, have a chat with your child and involve him or her in some of the decisions regarding holiday activities.
2. Before you head off, involve your child in the packing process. This is a great opportunity to estimate weight and to use correct terms such as kilogrammes, heavy, heavier, heaviest, light, lighter and lightest.
3. Travel involves a lot of timetabling and time-keeping. Make your child aware of this by discussing departure times and arrival times (read the boards together). Explain why the time is changing if you are passing through different time zones.
4. Keep a travel journal. This may include your boarding pass, train tickets, museum tickets, photos, postcards, some personal writing and pictures.
5. Take out a map and explain to your child where you will be visiting. Use the map to plan journeys you will take while you are away.
6. Make use of free city maps, encourage your child to pick out landmarks and read words on the map.
7. If you are visiting the beach, take the opportunity to practise letter and number formation in the sand.
8. The beach is a great place to practise construction skills. Why not use the language of capacity while building your sand castles - full, empty, nearly full, nearly empty, more, less etc.
9. Embrace different languages and share any new words with classmates.
10. Visit and research interesting historical landmarks.
11. Visit and research interesting geographical landmarks.
12. If visiting family, interview older relatives about games they played when they were younger.
13. If visiting family, compare your school day with your cousin's school day.
14. Immerse yourselves in the local culture; visit an art museum, see a show and try the local cuisine.
15. Take lots of photos and encourage your child to share their travel experiences when they return to school.