



Homework Policy

Why give homework?

- To reinforce 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 practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes. 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.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.
- There are two exceptions :
 - If homework has been neglected during the week
 - In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend. If a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written homework.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is well done.

How much time should be spent doing homework?

The following guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework at different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the

beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines only.

Junior Infants 0 – 10 minutes

Senior Infants Up to 20 minutes

Rang 1 Up to 30 minutes

Rang 2 Up to 40 minutes

Rang 3 Up to 50 minutes

Rang 4 Up to 50 minutes

Rang 5 Up to 1 hour

Rang 6 Up to 1 hour

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

How much help should parents give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework.
 - To prevent 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. " Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it's not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- PARENTS SHOULD CHECK AND SIGN A CHILD'S HOMEWORK JOURNAL EVERY EVENING.
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Ideally all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal), or using the Seesaw app.
- Please check that your child records their homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal each day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week.
- Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- If time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time. Homework should not be a cause of stress at home. You should let the teacher know if it frequently causes stress for your child.

When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different – both parents working, child minders etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some child need a break before starting homework.
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Remember

- If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.
- Homework will not be given to children who are taken on holidays during school time.
- Homework can be assigned for children who have been advised by the HSE to self-isolate or restrict their movements due to Covid-19.

Consequences for homework not done

Infants – 2nd Class

Teachers will contact parents.

3rd – 6th Classes

If a child does not do some or all of his/her homework they will get a 'step'. This homework will be added to the next night's homework. Any homework not done by the end of the week will be done at the weekend. If a child does not complete his/her homework on a regular basis his/her parents will be contacted by the principal.

Ratification and Review

This policy was written in September 2010.

It was reviewed in December 2013, and again in September 2020.

It was ratified by the Board of Management in January 2021.

Communication

This policy is available on the school website (www.saggartns.ie) or on request from the school office.

Signed: **M Marron**

Miriam Marron
Chairperson

Date: **Jan 2021**

Homework content

Junior Infants

Shared Reading. 2 books will be sent home with each child on a Monday. They will use one of the books for reading on Monday and Tuesday nights and one for Wednesday and Thursday nights.
Grow in Love. Sent home on Thursday, collected Friday morning.

Senior Infants

Word lists

Shared Reading. Three readers and 1 Library book will be sent home on Monday. They will be collected on Friday morning.

Grow in Love. Sent home on Thursday, collected Friday morning.

1st Class

Mental Maths (children to self-correct) (After mid-term break)

Written activity from phonics workbook (Teacher to correct)

Core Word Sentences (teachers to correct)

Learn tables

Reading or Reading Tasks (teachers to correct)

Grow in Love. Sent home on Thursday, collected Friday morning.

2nd Class

Mental Maths (children to self-correct)

Core Word Sentences (teachers to correct)

Tables Homework (activities to be created by teachers, children to self-correct)

Reading or Reading Tasks (teachers to correct)

Grow in Love. Sent home on Thursday, collected Friday morning.

3rd Class

Mental Maths (children to self-correct)

Core Word Sentences (teachers to correct)

Tables Homework

Reading or Reading Tasks (teachers to correct)

Fuaimeanna agus Focail (children to self-correct)

Grow in Love. Sent home on Thursday, collected Friday morning.

4th Class

Mental Maths (children to self-correct)

Core Word Sentences (teachers to correct)

Fuaimeanna agus Focail (children to self-correct)

Tables Homework/ Number Fact workbook

Reading or Reading Tasks (teachers to correct)

Grow in Love. Sent home on Thursday, collected Friday morning.

5th Class

Mental Maths (children to self-correct)

Core Word Sentences (teachers to correct)

Tables Homework

Reading or Reading Tasks (teachers to correct)

Fuaimeanna agus Focail (children to self-correct)

Grow in Love. Sent home on Thursday, collected Friday morning.

6th Class

Mental Maths (children to self-correct)

Core Word Sentences (teachers to correct)

Tables Homework

Reading or Reading Tasks (teachers to correct)

Fuaimeanna agus Focail (children to self-correct)

English in Practice (children to self-correct)

Grow in Love. Sent home on Thursday, collected Friday morning.

Fractions/Decimals/Percentages chart – after mid term

'Friday homework' sheet with a small piece of work to be completed each night and handed in on a Friday