



## Homework Policy

### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

This revised policy was formulated in December 2007 through consultation with teachers, parents, Board of Management and a survey of pupils in the school.

### RATIONALE FOR HOMEWORK POLICY

This revised policy has been devised at this time for the following reasons –

- To promote positive home/school communication.
- To establish good routines for pupils for independent learning.
- To address concerns over content and time spent by some children on homework.
- To ensure a balance between oral, reading and written homework.
- To address issues highlighted in a pupil survey.
- To review existing policy.

### *RELATIONSHIP TO CHARACTERISTIC SPIRIT OF SCHOOL*

Our Lady of Good Counsel G.N.S. seeks to enable each child to develop her potential. We believe that the performance of homework encourages pupils to work in an independent way and take responsibility for their own learning.

### AIMS

- To develop skills and self-discipline that will benefit the children, enhance their learning and increase their self-confidence through success.
- To reinforce/complete work done in class, thus establishing a good routine of homework.
- To promote a consistent approach across all levels in the school.
- To ensure differentiation for SEN pupils and to take account of different learning styles (multiple intelligences).
- To strengthen links between home and school i.e. **“Homework, a bridge, not a battle.”**

## HOMEWORK ROUTINES

The following are occasions when the children may not be given homework:

- Birthdays or nearest day
- Fridays
- Special rewards/Class or group treat/Homework pass
- Holiday times e.g. Christmas week
- Request of principal/priest etc.

### Homework Journal (Dialann Scoile)

All classes from Rang 1-Rang 6 will use a Dialann Scoile

PARENTS are requested to sign each evening and supervise homework where possible.

Homework will generally be written down at the end of the day. (may vary in classes)

### Who sets the homework?

- Classroom teachers
- SEN teachers

### Checking Homework

Each class operates their own class system. A record is kept if homework is not done or poorly completed. A note will go home if this is consistent. Pupils may be asked to repeat the homework or complete work not done. Parents should use the Dialann Scoile (Homework notebook) to communicate with the teacher.

Class	Homework Details (a selection from this list)	General Guidelines on Time/ Signature required
Junior Infants	Children's Literature for age group for parents to <b>read to the children</b> for enjoyment and to initiate discussion	No specified time No signature required
Senior Infants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading (1or 2 pages)/Book Worm Club after Easter</li> <li>• New words/phrases in word box</li> <li>• Making Sentences/words and phrases</li> <li>• Children's Literature(Read to/with the child)</li> </ul>	10-15mins. Reading to be signed
Rang 1/ 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision of tables for the week</li> <li>• Spellings for the week</li> <li>• Reading/Related new words</li> <li>• 1 writing assignment</li> <li>• Maths revision/mental maths</li> </ul>	20-25mins. <b>Max.</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ORAL WORK</li> </ul>	
<b>Rang 3 / 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handwriting/Written exercise</li> <li>• Reading (Class reader/novel)</li> <li>• Spelling Workbook exercise</li> <li>• Maths revision work</li> <li>• Gaeilge</li> <li>• Revision of tables</li> <li>• SESE revision (History/Geography/Science)</li> <li>• Project work</li> <li>• ORAL WORK/discussion on work</li> </ul>	25-40mins. <b>Max.</b>
<b>Rang 5 / 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision of tables</li> <li>• Spelling work/Litriú</li> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Revision of maths work</li> <li>• Written work (English/Gaeilge/Other subjects)</li> <li>• Project Work</li> <li>• Current Affairs/Media</li> </ul>	40-50mins. <b>Max.</b>

### Monitoring Homework

In general teachers will check homework on a daily basis. However pupils at the senior end of the school (Rang 4-6) will work more independently and some items of homework will be checked only once/twice a week. Other items will be checked by the pupils themselves, under the direction of the teacher. We believe this to be a very valuable part of the learning process as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

### Clarification of Roles

Role of Pupils	Role of Parents	Role of the Teachers
<p><b>To complete homework given</b></p> <p><b>To inform the teacher of any difficulty</b></p> <p><b>To have homework signed</b></p>	<p><b>To participate in the policy review process</b></p> <p><b>To encourage and assist children with their homework</b></p> <p><b>To establish a good routine for homework</b></p> <p><b>To stop the child after a reasonable time and inform the teacher of any difficulty</b></p>	<p><b>To set homework in class</b></p> <p><b>To review homework and provide feedback to the children</b></p> <p><b>To differentiate homework for SEN children</b></p> <p><b>To inform parents if homework is not being done on a regular basis</b></p>

### Success Criteria

The following practical indicators will inform us of the success of the policy;

- Feedback from pupils, parents, teachers

- Analysis of homework assignments/projects done at home

**Implementation and Review**

This policy will be implemented in September 2008 and will be reviewed again on an annual basis.