

 **TIMAHOE NS, TIMAHOE, CO. LAOIS**

 **057 8627051**

**HOMEWORK**

**POLICY**

**Homework Policy**

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in Scoil Mhuire Fatima we regard homework as important for the following reasons:

* It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.
* It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
* It can involve parents and family in the pupils work, to their mutual benefit.
* It gives pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study.
* It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at secondary school and in later life.

*It also enables the teacher:*

* To monitor pupil progress with a view to improving standards.
* To provide pupils and parents with clear and relevant feedback.
* To suggest strategies for improvement and goals to be achieved.
* To seek extra resources to support those pupils in need of additional help or additional challenge.

Homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects, and portfolios, diagnostic and standardised tests all lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of a pupil’s progress and development as they move through the school.

All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Some of their tasks may be designed to consolidate the child’s classroom learning experiences, while other tasks will encourage the child to work independently and with initiative.

**The time required for homework varies by class as follows:**

Junior/Senior Infants: 15-20 minutes.

1st and 2nd Classes: 30 minutes approx.

3rd and 4th Classes: 40 -45 minutes.

5th and 6th Classes: 50-60 minutes approx.

1. Pupils are obliged to carry out homework prescribed by their class teacher and/or other support teachers.
2. Any homework prescribed should be explained carefully and fully, so that the pupil feels confident when carrying it out, and homework therefore becomes a positive experience.
3. Each pupil is required to have a homework diary in order to record the required homework each day.
4. Parents are asked to sign the homework diary every evening after they have checked it.
5. Homework will be given on week nights only. Consisting of both oral (spelling, reading, tables) and written assignments (e.g. maths, comprehension exercises, creative writing and project work). Both are viewed as equally important and should be given equal amounts of focus and attention.
6. Research has shown that homework is most beneficial when:
* Pupils have a specific, quiet area within the home in which to carry out their work.
* Pupils are allowed to complete their homework without interruption, with television, music etc. switched off.
* Homework is carried out as early as possible in the evening and at the same time each day, thereby establishing a routine.
* The standard required of work done at home is similar to that which is required of work carried out in class under the teachers’ supervision.
1. If parent s perceive a problem when their child is doing homework, they should communicate this to the teacher by way of a note in their child’s Homework Diary.
2. If homework is not completed, the parent should inform the teacher with a written note in the homework diary. Otherwise it may be regarded as a breach of the schools Code of Behaviour and may be dealt with by imposing sanctions.
3. A differentiated homework programme may be given to learning support/resource pupils as per individual need and in consultation with parents.

**Success Criteria:**

The following would indicate successful implementation of this policy;

Pupils carry out homework to a high standard without fail within the guided time-span.

Feedback from parents regarding homework is generally positive.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

This policy has been made available to school personnel and provided to the Parents’ Association. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parents’ Association. A record of the review and its outcome will be made available, if requested, to the patron and the Department.

**Parents Review Nov 2013 Ratified by BOM Dec 2013**

**John Delaney Ann Bergin Martina Mulhall**

**John Delaney Ann Bergin Martina Mulhall**

**Chairman BoM Principal Deputy Principal**