

# Mary, Mother of Hope Junior National School



## Homework Policy



## **Introductory Statement**

Following consultation with parents. This policy was reviewed by staff at Mary, Mother of Hope J.N.S in 2024. It was ratified by the Board of Management at it's meeting in June 2024.

## **Rationale**

This policy was drawn up in order to have a consistent approach to homework amongst the teachers in the school and as a way of effectively communicating the school's approach to homework to parents.

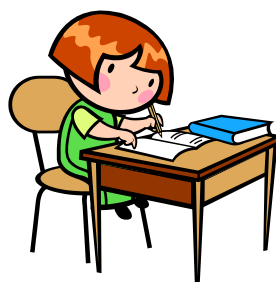
## **Content**

### **Why give Homework?**

- To reinforce and consolidate the work that is done in school.
- To enhance children's study and concentration skills and to promote a good work ethic.
- To encourage positive home-school links by involving parents in their child's education and keeping parents informed of what their child is learning.

### **How often is homework given?**

- Homework is given on Mondays with work to be returned on Friday. Children are expected to do some specific activities each day Mon - Thurs but can complete other tasks on the days that suits their family best.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are reduced homework activities as a treat or reward or as acknowledgment of some special occasion. This may be on a whole school/class basis or as individual reward e.g Homework Pass or Birthday
- Written homework is not given in December or June



## What is the content of homework?

- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. The work given will always represent a reinforcement of the work already covered in class.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability - no more, no less. Children will be given homework which is suitable to their ability level. Teachers will ensure the work is differentiated to ensure special needs are catered for. For children who attend School Support/School Support Plus priority should be given to the homework assigned by the SET.
- While children are expected to read everyday, over the course of a week, other homework will ideally contain a variety of subject areas. Homework will contain a balance of work, e.g. reading, oral, written, reading, practical and digital tasks.
- It should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- 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 done well.
- Each Thursday, children following the *Grow In Love* programme will have a religion related activity for homework.

## How much time should be spent on homework tasks?

The following are guidelines for time spent on homework. Different children will complete the same homework in 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/Senior Infants	Up to a maximum of 20 minutes
First Class/Second Class	Up to a maximum of 30 minutes

## How much help should parents give?

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Becoming familiar with the schools Homework Policy which is also available on the school's website [www.hopejns.ie](http://www.hopejns.ie)
- Providing children with a suitable space and time to do their homework. The space chosen should have adequate lighting and appropriate furniture. Resources such as pencils, colours, and scissors should be easily available.
- Remember also that children find it difficult to concentrate on an empty stomach.
- There should be minimal disruption for your child. Parents should try to prevent interruptions or distractions from T.V. or other children
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty. The finished product does not have to be perfect. It should reflect a genuine and reasonable effort by the child.
- 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. If the child is still unable to complete the task the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Shared reading (**Bookworm**) is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable time, maybe as part of the bedtime routine, when parent reads to their child.
- Parallel reading is more formal in nature and children should be able to read most of the text. Parents should inform teacher if books are either too easy or too challenging for the child.
- It is essential that books taken home from school for shared reading and Bookworm are returned to school each week in order for these programmes to run effectively.
- To ensure effective monitoring of homework and to maintain the link between home and school, parents are asked to sign their child's homework weekly and Reading Log on a daily basis. Teachers should sign Reading Logs weekly.

- If, on occasion, you find that your child is having difficulty in completing homework, or is spending much more time than recommended on a homework activity, parents are advised to:
  - Stop the homework activity, if the child is becoming upset
  - Write a brief note or message on Seesaw to the child's teacher stating the amount of time spent on the activity
  - Reassure your child that they have done enough for the day and put the homework back in the school bag.



### **How often should parents monitor homework?**

- Parents should check their child's homework when it is complete and sign it. The Reading Log should be signed every evening.
- If the child completes homework with a Childminder or in Crèche parents should make an effort to check that their child's homework has been completed to an adequate standard
- Encourage your child to tick each item of homework when completed.

### **How often do teachers monitor homework?**

- Teachers correct homework weekly and sign the childrens Reading Log each 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?**

- If children have not been able to complete their homework due to circumstances beyond their control.
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect of the work.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

## **When should homework be done?**

- Each family situation is different - maybe both parents are working or children attend a crèche or childminder. Ideally, homework should be done soon after school while your child is still fresh. However, some children need a break before starting homework or a small number might like to do it early in the morning.

### **Remember**

**If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose of the exercise. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact your child's teacher.**

**This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis**



## Suggested Content of Homework at Each Class Level

Junior & Senior Infants - Suggested Plan		
Everyday	<b>Jolly Phonics</b> - 42 Sounds, Blending, Tricky Words <b>Parallel Reader</b> (from Jan of Junior Infants) and/or Core Reader	
4 Tasks to be completed each week between Mon and Thurs - on the days that work best for individual families  Details for the week on Homework Sheet & Seesaw	<b>Week 1</b> <b>Grow In Love</b> <b>English Written task</b> - Handwriting <b>Practical Maths Activity</b> <b>Seesaw Assignment</b> - covering all subject areas throughout the year	<b>Week 2</b> <b>Grow In Love</b> <b>English Written task</b> - Dictation <b>Maths Written task</b> <b>Active Learning task</b> - Covering all subject areas throughout the year

First & Second Class - Suggested Plan		
Everyday	<b>Parallel Reader</b> and/or <b>Core reader</b> <b>Spelling Tables</b>	
4 Tasks to be completed Mon, Tues, Wed or Thurs - whichever is best for your family  Details for the week in Journal and on Seesaw	<b>Week 1</b> <b>Grow In Love</b> <b>English</b> - Handwriting/Reading Comprehension/Cloze Procedure/Grammar <b>Maths</b> - written task <b>Seesaw Assignment</b> across all subject areas throughout the year with Gaeilge task once per month.	<b>Week 2</b> <b>Grow In Love</b> <b>English</b> - Handwriting/Reading Comprehension/Cloze Procedure/Grammar <b>Maths</b> - Practical Task <b>Active Learning task</b> - across all subject areas throughout the year

