

# **Rathlee N.S.**

## **Homework Policy**

### **Why give homework?**

- To re-enforce 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.
- 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, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Occasionally, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given “Homework off” as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.

### **What is the content of homework?**

Ideally homework will contain a mixture of reading and writing tasks and memorising. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.

Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

## **How much (time) homework?**

The following are guidelines for time spent at 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 Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 30 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

## **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
- Preventing 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 the child cannot overcome the difficulty the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

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

Parents should check and sign 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. However, parents should regularly check their children's bags/journals for messages on a regular basis.

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

Teachers monitor homework on a regular basis.

## **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 the time is being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

## **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.

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

