



*St. Brigid's B.N.S.*  
*Howth Road, Killester, Dublin 5 Phone 01 8336149*

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:**

The policy was formulated by the whole teaching staff of St. Brigid's B.N.S.  
The existing policy was due for review.

### **AIMS:**

- To reinforce what a child learns during the day
- To provide a link between home and school
- 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 practise 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 Mondays, 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
- Children are sometimes given "Homework off" at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.

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

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between oral, learning and written content.
- Homework will generally be based on revision of, practice in or expansion of work already taught. It may also contain project work and the use of reference books, computer/internet etc.
- In general all children will get the same homework. However in the case of pupils with special needs, individual homework may be given by the Resource /Learning Support teacher following consultation with the class teachers and parents.

### **How much time for 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.

Concentrated maximum time:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Class: 20 mins.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Class: 30 mins.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Class: 45 mins.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Class: 45 mins.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Class: 1 hour.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Class: 1 hour.

At infant level homework is at the discretion of the teacher.

### **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
- If a child has difficulty with homework, 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 but it can be an enjoyable and worthwhile way for parents to help their children at home.

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

- Parents should check and sign their child's homework journal every evening.
- The pupil's journal is an important record of your 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.
- Please check that your child records his homework neatly on the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- Please check your child's journal for notes on a regular basis.

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

- Homework journals are checked on a regular basis.
- Pupils will be monitored consistently
  - Checking whether a reasonable effort has been made
  - Taking note of any difficulties
- Some items of homework/class work may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.
- If homework is consistently not completed to a satisfactory standard, the teacher will inform the pupil's parents/guardians.
- Occasionally it may be necessary to catch up on incomplete work at weekends.

### **When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?**

- When your child cannot do homework due to forgetting a book or due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because he cannot understand some aspect of it.
- 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 - 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 children may need a break before starting their 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.**

**SUCCESS CRITERIA:**

- ◆ Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils
- ◆ Parental/ pupil/teacher feedback
- ◆ Pupil assessment.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Class teacher will co-ordinate the progress of the policy in his/her class.

**TIMEFRAME FOR REVIEW:**

Policy will be regularly reviewed.

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

Policy will be implemented from 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**RATIFICATION:**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

**Signed:            Msgr. Stenson**

**Date:              11/03/2015**