St. Michael's N.S. Rackwallace

HOMEWORK POLICY

Introductory Statement

This policy was formulated by the staff of St. Michael's N.S. following a review of the previous policy in July 2009 and was reviewed last in September 2026

Rationale

We decided to review our Homework Policy in order to

- *To promote positive home/school communication.*
- *To maximise the benefit of homework to the child's learning.*
- *To allow the staff to work on fostering a love of Reading and Reading for pleasure in the school.*

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school

St. Michael's N.S. seeks to provide an appropriate education for all pupils of the school by promoting a caring learning environment which facilitates the nurturing of each pupil's educational potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.

Aims

Our aims are:

- *To develop skills and self-discipline that will be of benefit to children in order to enhance learning*
- *To reinforce work done in class – it allows for revision and practice*
- *To develop study skills and to assist in establishing an appropriate routine for children in doing their homework*
- *To promote consistency and a similar approach to homework across all classes*
- *To encourage children to become independent learners and to revise/ reinforce/ finish work that has begun in school.*
- *To remove the stress that homework can cause in some houses.*
- *To give families a chance to spend 'quality time' reading or revising tables, spellings etc.*
- *To strengthen links and communication between home and school – Homework: A bridge not a battle.*

Assigning Homework:

- Homework is given on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays.
- Overall, classes will have no homework on Fridays
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as an acknowledgment of some special occasion.
- Homework is assigned by class teacher or SEN teacher.
- Homework will be explained to children properly, in advance by class teacher.
- Homework shall primarily be Oral. Children will be encouraged to use homework time to revise spellings, sounds, tables, and other work covered in class.
- Parents will be encouraged to play an active role in the child's homework.
- Parents are reminded often, by newsletter and at PT meetings, that homework shouldn't be a cause of stress or conflict at home and are encouraged to talk to the teacher if homework causes problems at home.

- Pupils with Special Educational Needs may be given reduced homework activities. Parents are asked to liaise closely with class teacher in relation to completion of homework activities.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class**.**

- 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.
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Junior Infants	0-15 minutes max.
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes max.
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes max.
Rang 2	Up to 35 minutes max.
Rang 3	Up to 40 minutes max.
Rang 4	Up to 40 minutes max.
Rang 5	Up to 40 minutes max.
Rang 6	Up to 40 minutes max.

There is no homework on a school day just before a public holiday.

Homework Copy

Junior Infants/Senior Infants have homework folders.

First – Second Classes have homework notebooks/copies and homework folders.

Third – Sixth Classes have dedicated homework copies

Parents are encouraged to sign homework copies to confirm that homework has been checked and properly completed on a daily basis.

Teachers will check homework copies or folders

All children have homework folders for homework sheets and copies, and homework notebooks/copies.

Checking Homework:

- Any homework assigned by a teacher will be checked by that teacher.

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.

Pupils: Pupils should ensure that all homework (written and learning) is completed as per teacher's instructions.

Parents/Guardians:

- 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 TV and other children.
  - Listening to reading, sounds, tables etc.
- Children are encouraged do written homework themselves, but parents should help when the child has difficulty and alert the teacher to the difficulty

- In helping your child, please adhere to the methods being used in the school. Providing alternative methods may lead to confusion for the child.
- Parents should check and sign a child's homework copy every evening.
- The pupil's homework copy 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 copy (additional pages available at the end of the folder).
- Notes should be provided to class teacher:
    - 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 being spent at homework is ***often*** longer than the recommended amount of time.

Copies of the Homework Policy will be distributed to parents upon enrolment of the child.

Success Criteria:

- Feedback from teachers, pupils and parents.
- Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils.

Roles and Responsibility:

All staff members are responsible for the implementation of this policy and will co-ordinate and monitor same.

Implementation Date:

This policy was be implemented in September 2009.

Timetable for Review:

This policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis. Last Review: September 2026.

Ratification & Communication:

Board of Management ratified this policy in September 2026.

As with all policies parents can view this policy in the school office.

_____ _____

Chairperson Date

_____ _____

Principal Date

Date of next review: September 2027

Sample homework questionnaire

School Review: Homework

A. Pupil Section:

Name: _____ Class: _____

Name 3 things that you like about homework:

1_____
2_____
3_____

Name 3 things that you dislike about homework:

1._____
2._____
3._____

Name 3 changes that you would like to see in this school regarding homework:

1._____
2._____
3._____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for filling this survey for our school.
Go raibh maith agat.

Homework Questionnaire for Parents

1. What benefits do you see from your child doing homework?

2. How long does it take your child to do his/her homework?

3. Do you help your child with his/her homework? If yes, what areas do you give him/her help?

4. Do you think that homework should be given at weekends?

5. How long do you think that a child of his/her age group should spend doing his/her homework?

6. Are there any changes you would like to see made in relation to your child's homework?

7. Any other comments

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. All answers will be treated in confidence.

Homework Questionnaire for Pupils

1. How long does it take you to do your homework? _____

2. Do you get help with your homework?_____

_____

3. What is your favourite type of homework?_____

_____

4. What part of your homework do you find the most difficult?_____

_____

5. What would you change about homework?_____

_____

_____

6. Why do you think you get homework?_____

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