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| Draft Policy  **Homework** |
| Ballyoughter National School |
| **Roll Number: 10780L** |
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|  | Date |
| Staff Consultation |  |
| Parental Consultation |  |
| Ratified by BoM |  |

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

Chairperson, BoM

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

**Introductory Statement**Homework is an ideal opportunity to foster an educational partnership between home and school.  
This homework policy was formulated by the staff, in consultation with parents and approved by the Board of Management. It outlines reasons for homework, types of homework that may be given, recommended times to be spent on homework, advice on conditions that should be available to the pupil and what to do if problems arise.

**Rationale**

Teachers wished to review the homework policy to ensure that it reflects the new approaches and methodologies of the revised curriculum.

**Aims**

To consolidate work being done at school.  
 To keep parents in touch and involved in their children’s work.  
 To develop and encourage the habit of independent study.

**Guidelines for Teachers**

Homework should be an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to  
consolidate work done – not as an exercise in isolation.  
 Homework should never be given unless the teacher has thoroughly prepared and explained what is to be done.  
 Homework must be consistent – a small amount and given in such a way as to form a pattern for the children so that they are more likely to remember it.  
Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur.

**Guidelines for Parents**

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

o Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework  
o To prevent 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 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. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it’s not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.

**Homework Types**

Homework may be of two types. These are:  
Drill and exercise in the tool subjects. Study is these subjects can take many forms:   
arithmetic problems, studying and writing spelling lists, learning tables, practising penmanship, completing grammar exercises.

Activities which supplement school instruction in the content subject. These can be drawing pictures and learning religion questions, making maps or scrapbooks, writing letters to pen pals, viewing recommended television programmes and collecting concrete materials that can be used in class.  
Homework must never be an introduction to unfamiliar material. When a child is asked to study new and unfamiliar material, he/she is confused and often misinterprets the content. Some children may be tempted to badger their parents into doing their homework; others are given misinformation at home, while, worst of all, some children will be turned off homework through pure frustration. Provided that children have a good comprehension of the content, there is nothing wrong with rote learning (tables, grammar rules, mnemonics) and memorising (poems, songs, religion questions).  
 In order that parents be acquainted with the homework which their children have to do, homework journals shall be used in each room (1st-6th Class)

Children with learning difficulties learn better through using concrete materials and by having relatively short assignments with repetition of simple facts and numerous illustrations. Because they are likely to require considerable individual assistance with homework it is important to set standards of achievement at the child’s level.  
Do not assign the same quantity of homework to them as to the main body of the class. For instance, assign only the first five questions of a 15 – question exercise in grammar. Arrange for considerable practise with basic skills. Emphasise neatness and thoroughness in all they do.

**General Note**  
 From the above it will be apparent that the amount of homework given to weaker and stronger children will differ from that given to the general body of the class. Try to ensure that as far as possible each child has sufficient homework to engage him for the required time, while also being conscious of not overburdening slow learners.

The first Wednesday of each month children will have no written homework and are encourage to get active and enjoy some family time.

**Time**  
Allotted time that expect the average child in each class to spend at homework:  
 Junior Infants 10 – 15 minutes  
 Senior Infants 15 – 25 minutes  
 First and Second No more than 30 minutes  
 Third and Fourth 30 – 45 minutes  
 Fifth class 45 minutes – 1 hour  
 Sixth class 1 hour – 1 hour 30 minutes (max.)  
 Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends; however, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

**How often should parents monitor homework?** Parents should check and sign a 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 (additional pages available at the end of the journal)  
Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed  
Ballyoughter National School newsletters and other letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal or lunchbox (infants). Please check your child’s journal for such notes on a regular basis.

**How often do teachers monitor homework?**  
 Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child’s homework journal every day.  
 As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per 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?** 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.

**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 need a break before starting 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**

The success of this policy will be determined by:  
Feedback from teachers, pupils, parents.  
Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils.  
Implementation  
The BOM will implement this policy from November 2018.

**Review**Roles and Responsibilities  
Class teachers in consultation with whole school planning.  
**Timeframe**  
This policy will be reviewed in 2 years’ time and amended as necessary by means of a whole school collaborative process.

Ratification and Communication  
This policy was reviewed and implemented in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
This policy will be reviewed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or earlier if required.

**Ratification and Communication**

The Board of Management of Ballyoughter NS ratified this plan on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
This plan is available to view at the school by the parents and on our school website at www.ballyoughterns.ie