**St. Benedict’s National School**

**Homework Policy**



**Policy Introduction**

 Children are given homework which is work that supports and complements the work being carried out at school. This policy was written by the principal in conjunction with the teaching staff. The homework policy of St. Benedict’s N.S. works in tandem with all other existing policies of the school.

 The type of homework and amount will vary from time to time and from class to class but will increase as the child progresses through the school. Individual class teachers will correspond with parents outlining details.

 Parents are encouraged to help their children to develop a positive approach to homework by setting aside a time in the day when they can complete their tasks.

 Homework is set as a way of informing and involving parents in their child’s learning process, as well as enjoying activities and having fun.

 All pupils are encouraged to read in their own time every day. From an early age they will bring home their reading books the school hopes that parent and child will share the excitement of reading books together.

 Parents are also encouraged to spend time allowing and supporting children to develop life skills by encouraging them to read things around them e.g. labels, street signs etc as well as writing letters, stories, notes, lists and familiarise themselves with every day maths. This is supported and reinforced by staff during school time.

 Homework assignments in English and Mathematics and Gaeilge are given on a regular basis with particular emphasis on spellings and tables. Once again parental help with the learning of spelling and number patterns is much valued and has a noticeable impact on children’s learning.

 **Recommended Daily Homework**

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| **Class** | **Time** |
| Junior Infants and Senior Infants |  10 – 15 minutes |
| First and Second Class |  Up to 30 minutes |
| Third and Fourth Class |  30 – 45 minutes |
| Fifth and Sixth Class |  Up to 1 hour |

**How often is homework given?**

* Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.
* Homework continues until the end of each term and until two weeks before end of summer term.
* Sometimes 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.
* Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week if a child has not done homework, has not made a suitable effort or has presented careless/untidy work.

 **What is the content of homework?**

* Homework assignments may involve research, writing, reading or learning and should be completed on time.
* Learning homework is just as important as written assignments and adequate time should be devoted to learning assignments
* Homework assignments will be recorded in the pupil’s homework journal from First to Sixth class. The journal will also act as a form of communication between the home and the class. It is important to inform the class teacher if a child is having difficulty with homework or if homework has not been completed on a specific day due to unavoidable circumstances.
* Reading with a parent on a daily basis is to be encouraged.
* There is a homework diary in operation from first class onwards and parents sign this diary along with the amount of time it has taken the child to complete their homework. This is used by the class teacher and parents as a good communication tool between the home and the school.

This policy was ratified by staff and board of management on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_ (Chairperson of Board of Management) Signed: \_ (Principal)