



# St. Finbarr's Boys' National School

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## HOMEWORK POLICY

<b>AIMS/PURPOSES</b>
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- (a) *To consolidate and reinforce school work*
- (c) *To give the child an opportunity to work independently and therefore to foster good study habits*
- (d) *To keep parents in touch with and involved in their child's school work*

Educational research has shown conclusively that a child's learning is significantly improved where parents are involved in the child's learning process. Homework is one of the best areas for this active involvement of parents and child. When parents become involved in children's learning the children see learning as something important and worthwhile and are much more likely to make progress.

It is school policy that all classes are regularly given homework. Each pupil has a homework diary in which he records the assignments for each night. We rely on parents' support to oversee homework and sign when completed. Teachers will take into account the different capabilities of children when deciding what constitutes acceptable homework.

Homework is not just written work. It can involve many activities which are just as valuable e.g. reading, learning tables, using an encyclopaedia, watching an educational television programme, preparing materials for use in class the following day, cutting out a picture, colouring, etc.- The average maximum time suggested for each class to spend on homework is set out below. However this may vary as children and home circumstances differ greatly.

<b>Second class:</b>	<b>30 to 45 minutes</b>
<b>Third class:</b>	<b>45 to 60 minutes</b>
<b>Fourth class:</b>	<b>45 to 60 minutes</b>
<b>Fifth class:</b>	<b>60 to 75 minutes</b>
<b>Sixth class:</b>	<b>60 to 75 minutes</b>

Parents need to keep a check on time spent versus performance. Some children can spend long periods of time at homework and have very little done at the end. Perhaps there may be need for regular checking while the child is doing homework to make sure that the work is being done and concentration maintained

- ◆ Positive parental attitudes to homework are most important. Patience and praise can work wonders.
- ◆ Parents should try to create a routine as regards time and place. Perhaps between school time and tea-time might be a good idea.
- ◆ The place of study should not have T.V. or music and should be as free as possible from interruptions (general house traffic).
- ◆ Parents should be aware of the ever-present elements of homework which should receive attention every day: Reading, Spelling, Maths and Religion.
- ◆ While it is best that children are allowed to work independently, it is advisable to listen to their reading and to check their spellings and also to allow them the opportunity to ask questions and tell you about their work.

*This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of St Finbarr's Boys' National School on 23rd of August 2002 and reviewed at regular intervals thereafter to assess its effectiveness.*

<b>MONITORING/EVALUATION/REVIEW</b>
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This policy will be reviewed in 2008 and thereafter at regular intervals to assess its effectiveness