2021

# Homework Policy Threen NS

## Introductory Statement

This policy has been formulated by the staff of Threen NS, in consultation with parents, students and the Board of Management. The process of updating the old policy began in the summer term of 2020.

Home and school are two different but closely related aspects of children's lives. Frequently, these blur into one another as in the case of homework which is a regular link between home and school. Homework is, therefore, an ideal opportunity to foster an educational partnership between home and school.

## Relationship to the Characteristic Spirit of the School

This policy is in line with the school's vision of achieving academic potential of each child.

## Rationale: Why give homework?

Homework is provided in order to:

- reinforce what the child learns during the day and encourage habits of independent learning and study and to make use of non-school educational resources; and consolidate work in class.
- Develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- Sometimes in senior classes some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity, e.g. individual/group projects, etc.

## How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.
- Please note homework may be sometimes given during the week or at the weekend if a child has (a) project work, (b) not done homework or (c) not made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or principal children are given no homework as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.

## What is the content of homework?

- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child i.e. provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by teacher in class. However, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide an opportunity for creativity

- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability.
- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks, written and oral tasks.
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be learned "by heart", drawing, / colouring, collecting items/ information and finishing work started in class.
- Some homework using ICT/ technology may be used.

**How much (time) homework?**

The following are general guidelines as different children will complete the same work in different lengths of time:

| | |
|---|---|
| Junior and Senior Infants | 10-20 minutes informal homework<br><br>**15-20 minutes |
| First and Second class | 20-30 minutes |
| Third and Fourth class | 30-45 minutes |
| Fifth and Sixth class | 45-60 minutes |

**How much help should parents give?**

Parents should try to help their children by:

- Providing them with a suitable place to do their homework and preventing interruptions or distractions, like t.v., mobile phones or other children.
- Children should do their homework themselves and parents should help when child has difficulty.
- Parents should supervise, check all elements of homework are completed, ensure neatness, and sign journal/ reading.

**How do teachers monitor homework?**

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, this is not always possible.
- 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 homework be done?**

- Ideally, homework should be done before any T.V. is watched and 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.

**Children with special needs.**

- Homework for children with additional/ special needs will be at the discretion of the teacher, in consultation with the parents, as needs vary considerably.
- SET teacher may assign homework.

**Ratified by** Aine O'Connor (Principal) (Chairperson, Board of Management)

On 5th July 2021 (Date)