

**Presentation Primary School,
Station Road,
Portarlinton,
Co. Laois**



Presentation Primary School Mission Statement

We endeavour to provide a holistic Catholic education for each child, where respect and care for all, are central values.

Homework Policy

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in Presentation Primary School, Portarlinton regard homework as important for the following reasons:

- It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class
- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning
- It can involve parents and family in the pupil's work, to their mutual benefit
- It gives pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study
- It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at secondary school and in later life

It also enables the teacher:

- To monitor pupil progress with a view to improving standards
- To provide pupils and parents with clear and relevant feedback
- To suggest strategies for improvement and goals to be achieved
- To seek extra resources to support those pupils in need of additional help or additional challenge

Homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects, portfolios, diagnostic and standardized tests all lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of a pupil's progress and development as they move through the school.

All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Some of their tasks may be designed to consolidate the child's classroom learning experiences, while

other tasks will encourage the child to work independently and with initiative. Reading practice is a priority for all children.

Aims and Objectives

Homework is assigned to revise the work done in class, to put new concepts into practice and to encourage independent learning by means of research (use of dictionary, looking up information) and problem solving.

How much (time) homework?

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 day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines only:

Senior Infants receive a homework folder on Mondays,
Junior infants receive a similar homework folder on Tuesdays. The homework for the week is clearly outlined on a page in the folder and is collected on Fridays for correction.

Junior Infants	10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour
No Homework at weekends	

- 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 be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work

What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written 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 information/ items and finishing work started in class
- Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well

How much help should parents give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by: providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework 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

How often should parents monitor homework?

- 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
- Please check that your child records its homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed

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 class work) 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

The Nano Nagle Homework Club

We in Presentation Primary School, Portarlinton have a homework club on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2.30pm to 3.15pm. Approximately 20/25 children attend the Homework Club which is voluntarily supervised by two teachers on the above evenings. Ms. Claire O'Connell is responsible for the sourcing of children in need of the Homework Club and consultation with parents regarding same. Claire is also responsible for the administration and organisation of the Homework Club.

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 regular basis contact the class teacher.

Ratification of Policy

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on _____ [date].

This policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parents' Association. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parents' Association. A record of the review and its outcome will be made available, if requested, to the patron and the Department.

Signed: _____
(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed: _____
(Principal)

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date of next review: September 2017

