

Homework Policy for St. Anthony's School

Rationale

Homework plays a vital role in reinforcing learning, fostering independence, and supporting the individual needs of students. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries and liaising with teachers. This policy aims to provide a structured, consistent, and equitable approach to homework that aligns with the needs and abilities of our students while promoting positive engagement between school and home. The policy of St. Anthony's school has been formulated by the Board of Management in January 2025 and has been reviewed by class teachers in December 2024.

A comprehensive homework policy ensures

- Further strengthening of home-school links
- Reinforcing the learning experience by the student during the school day
- Clarity as to the recommended amount of time to be spent on homework.

Relationship to School Ethos

Our school is committed to creating a supportive, inclusive, and nurturing learning environment where all students are encouraged to reach their full potential.

Homework reflects our ethos by:

- Supporting personalised learning goals through their IEP
- Encouraging collaboration between teachers, parents, and students.
- Ensuring that tasks are accessible, manageable, and meaningful for each learner.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of this homework policy are to:

- Consolidate and reinforce classroom learning.
- Foster time management skills and independent learning
- Develop a sense of responsibility and independence in their own work
- Address the diverse needs and uniqueness of each student

- Maintain the discretion of the teacher to formulate relevant, realistic and specific tasks for homework
- Build confidence and a sense of achievement through attainable tasks.
- To further develop links between home and school

Objectives include:

- Assigning clear, purposeful, and achievable homework tasks.
- Encouraging consistent routines for completing homework.
- Providing timely and constructive feedback on completed work.

Policy Content

It is school policy that homework is meant to be achievable by the learner as it provides an opportunity to practice work already done in class. Homework is prepared by teachers in the class.

1. Homework Differentiation

- Homework will be differentiated to meet the individual needs and abilities of students.
- Tasks may include, life skills, personal and organisational skills as well as language and literacy tasks, or digital learning, depending on the student's educational plan or tasks that needs to be completed from class time.
- Homework will be limited in scope to avoid overwhelming students and to respect their needs.
- The assigned homework is explained to children in advance.
- Teachers like to check homework daily. However, though homework is checked, written corrections are not always possible. When appropriate teachers may have to correct homework when time is available.
- Some homework may be self-correcting. Some items of homework are corrected under the discretion of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process
- All students have a homework diary and this acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent/carer

2. Time Guideline

Homework will be given Monday to Thursday inclusive.

- Homework will require no more than 15 to 20 minutes for Primary Classes and 20 - 25 minutes for Senior Classes.
- Flexibility will be maintained to accommodate individual student needs; for example, if the child is in flow and would like to continue over the allocated time, that is possible.

3. Parent and Guardian Involvement

- Parents and guardians are encouraged to provide a supportive environment and assist only when necessary to promote student independence.
- Communication channels will be open for parents to provide feedback about homework.

4. Support and Feedback

- Teachers will provide clear instructions and expectations for each task.
- Homework will be reviewed, and constructive feedback will be provided to encourage progress and learning.
- In cases of difficulty, alternative approaches or additional support will be offered.

5. Exemptions and Adjustments

- Students with specific difficulties or needs may be exempt from certain tasks or provided with alternative assignments.

Student-Centred Homework Flexibility

6. Personalised Adjustments: Students may opt for reduced or no homework based on individual needs.

- **Teachers will ensure that any adjustments are in line with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and communicated to parents.**

No-Homework Periods

Homework may not be assigned during particularly busy or celebratory times of the year, such as:

- The Christmas holiday season (mid-December through the break).
- In June when outdoor activities and end-of-year events increase.

This ensures students can focus on family, cultural, and recreational activities, supporting their overall well-being.

Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be evaluated through:

- Regular feedback from students, parents, and teachers.
- Monitoring of student progress and engagement with homework tasks.
- Periodic review by the school management team to ensure alignment with educational goals and student needs.

Roles and Responsibilities / Implementation

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy from/students'/ parents and or guardians right up to the Board of Management.

This policy has been in operation since January 2025, and it was reviewed at a teachers meeting in December 2024 and revised as above.

Ratification / Communication

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management and will be communicated to all staff, parents, and students through school newsletters, the school website, and parent-teacher meetings.

Timetable for Review

The homework policy will be reviewed, when necessary, based on feedback and evolving student needs.


Ratification

B.O.M meeting Jan'25

Signed: Chairperson of the Board of Management

 Date: 27/01/2025

Principal:

 Date: 27/1/25

References

The Essential Parents Guide to the Primary school years - Brian Gilsenan

Your Child in the primary school - I.N.T.O

Your Child's learning - DES. Primary School Curriculum

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