



# Homework Policy

## Our Lady of the Wayside National School

### **Introductory Statement:**

This policy was formulated by class teachers, resource-learning support teachers and special needs assistants. We also got parental involvement. This policy was formulated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2010 at a staff meeting. A group of parents also worked on this policy during October.

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child. The class teacher normally prepares the homework, however, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity. Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability.

### **Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school:**

Our Lady of the Wayside N.S. seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential. Homework is expected to ensure that parents are aware of the work going on in the classroom. It encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.

### **Aims of Homework:**

- ⇒ To benefit pupil learning
- ⇒ To reinforce work done in class
- ⇒ To develop study skills
- ⇒ To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes
- ⇒ To strengthen links between home and school
- ⇒ To develop the child's concentration skills and to develop a work ethic

### **Guidelines:**

- ⇒ Homework will be given to all children in the school
- ⇒ All children do not necessarily get the same homework.
- ⇒ Children from first class upwards will have a homework journal / notebook.

- ⇒ When completed, parents are expected to sign the homework journal and to write in the amount of time spent doing his/her homework.
- ⇒ Homework is given Monday to Thursday. Generally homework is not given at the weekends, however, in the senior classes there may be some project work or research.
- ⇒ If any problems arise in relation to homework parents and teachers can communicate through the homework diaries and if needs be have a meeting.
- ⇒ It is the pupils responsibility to take down their homework, to listen to the teacher when the teacher is explaining the homework and take ownership of their homework
- ⇒ If pupils have difficulty with their homework they should inform their parents and their parents can communicate this through the homework diary.

### **Time and Content Guidelines**

#### ***Content***

*As a general rule, homework is not new work- it reinforces work already done or is very closely related to it and should consolidate the child's learning.*

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. It should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Parents / Guardians can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

#### ***Time***

Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Maximum Time Spent</b>
Infant classes	20 Minutes
1st and 2nd Class	30 Minutes
3rd and 4th Class	45 Minutes
5th and 6th Class	60 - 75 Minutes

**Parents/Guardians involvement:**

It is important that parents maintain a positive outlook on homework

Parents should check and sign the children's notebook. Parents should encourage the children to work independently but be available if help is needed.

Each family situation is different, but ideally homework should be done before any television is watched and soon after school while your child is still fresh. Some children may need a short break before starting homework. We strongly recommend that homework is not left until the morning time before school.

Please inform your child's teacher if:

- Your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- Your child cannot do homework because he/she could not understand some aspect of the homework
- The time spent at homework is often longer or shorter than the recommended amount of time
- Homework is a stressful experience.

**Success Criteria:**

Practical Indicators of the success of the policy

- ⇒ Feedback from teachers, pupils and parents
- ⇒ Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils
- ⇒ Positive attitude from parents and children

**Roles and Responsibility:**

The following people have responsibility for this policy

- ⇒ Class Teacher
- ⇒ Pupil
- ⇒ Principal
- ⇒ Parent/Guardian

**Timetable for Review:**

This policy will be reviewed regularly.

**Ratification and Communication:**

This policy was ratified by Board of Management November 2010