



Homework / Home-School Communication

	Date
Initial draft	09/01
Updated	2015
Staff, parental and pupil consultation	10/20
Ratified by BoM	5/21 (amended 12.21) (amended 9.22 post covid)

The purpose of Homework is to:

- Provide an important link between home and school.
- Encourage and develop the habit of independent study.
- Consolidate, revisit and revise daily schoolwork.
- Encourage daily reading practice

Pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Children with Special Education Needs may be provided with differentiated homework if appropriate.

Usually, homework contains a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. Some of these tasks may be in digital format such as Reading Eggs and Mangahigh (from 1st class).

However, homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day and parents are asked to read often to younger children.

Sometimes children are given 'homework off' as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Homework for 1st-6th classes is usually assigned Monday to Thursday, leaving the weekend free for family activities. However, pupils may be asked to complete homework at weekends if it has been neglected during the week. In senior classes some project

work may be undertaken at weekends and the return of some homework may be over a period of days.

A Weekly Homework Menu **for 1st-6th classes** is posted by class teacher to Seesaw app on a Monday. Families have flexibility as to when homework is completed. It is recommended that reading and memory tasks (such as spellings and tables) be completed nightly.

Infant classes will be sent a monthly newsletter outlining work being done via Seesaw.

Homework begins gradually in infant classes, starting with Shared Readers in the second half of first term of junior infants.

Sample time guidelines for homework:

Class	Recommended times
Junior Infants	No homework until after mid-term break in first term Home Activities (10 minutes)
Senior Infants	Home Activities (15 minutes)
First / Second Class	20 – 30 minutes
Third/Fourth Class	30 – 40 minutes
Fifth/Sixth Class	40 – 60 minutes

These times are guidelines. Some children may complete the work in less time. However, if your child is regularly taking more than the guideline time, please confer with the teacher.

Parents are asked to:

- Encourage your child/ children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Establish a set routine and time for homework. A quiet place, free of distractions is preferable.
- Regularly check memory work (tables and spellings).
- Encourage good presentation of written homework .
- Check your child’s homework each night.
- Write a note in the journal when /if homework is unfinished.
- Inform teachers of problems when they arise.

Pupils are asked to:

- Check homework assigned on Seesaw app
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly

Home-School Communication

School to Home

- School newsletters
- School journals (from 1st class_
- Infant Newsletter which is usually sent out to parents each month
- Notes to parents on specific issues
- Text/emails through Aladdin app
- Class Group Information Meeting at the start of the year
- Parent-Teacher Meetings
- School reports
- Meeting parents (by appointment)
- Phone calls
- Virtual (e.g. zoom) meetings

Home to School

- School Journals (1st – 6th class)
- Notes from infant parents to infant teachers
- E-mail FAO: Teacher's name to info@stpatricksns.ie
- Phone-call to school (urgent situations only)
- Collection times
- Class Group Information Meeting at the start of the year
- Parent-Teacher Meetings
- Meetings by appointment

Please note Seesaw app is for assigning and posting work only and should not be used as a means of communicating with teachers

Parents can communicate any issues regarding homework with class teacher through the school journal or info@stpatricksns.ie



Séamus Mac Conámha - Principal



John Conway (Chairperson BoM)