



Homework Policy

Homework is an important part of the school life of St. Ultan's. The following document outlines our policy and guidelines to parents in relation to homework in our school.

Why do we have homework?

1. To consolidate and reinforce what the child has learnt in class
2. To encourage independence and responsibility in students
3. To strengthen links between home and school

How often is homework given?

Homework in St.Ultan's School is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays with certain exceptions:

- If homework has been not been done during the week
- A pupil may have earned a "homework pass"
- At the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a special treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion such as a birthday or school celebration.

What type of homework is given?

The content and type of homework given to each pupil is primarily influenced by the child's age, level of independence and individual educational programme. This will be discussed with parents at the beginning of each school year and communicated daily in the homework journal.

- Homework activities are directly related to work that the teacher has covered and prepared with pupils in class. They may comprise of reading, spellings, written activities in numeracy and literacy and/or drawing and colouring. Pupils may also be required to complete assignments that they did not get to finish in class.

- Pupils may be required to complete other types of activities such as cutting, pasting, shopping activities, money management activities, household jobs, computer activities, watching particular TV programmes, listening to reading, etc as part of the development of motor, social and life skills.

How long should homework take?

The following are guidelines for time spent on homework in the different classes. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent may also vary from day to day.

The following are general guidelines:

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| Class 1 | 10 – 15 mins | Senior A | 30 - 40 mins |
| Class 2 | 10 -20 mins | Senior B | 30 – 40 mins |
| Class 3 | 15 -25 mins | Senior C | 30 – 40 mins |
| Class 4 | 20 – 30 mins | Senior D | 40 – 50 mins |
| Class 5 | 30 -40 mins | Senior E | 45 – 60 mins |

How can parents support pupils with their homework?

- Select and arrange the most suitable time to do homework taking into account the child's age, need for playtime, leisure and family time
- Provide the quietest place possible away from distractions, interruptions and TV
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. **It is good to help children with their homework but do not overhelp and do too much for them.** If there are any difficulties with homework, communicate these to the teacher in the homework journal
- Encourage children to be neat and tidy in the presentation of their homework
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. Encourage them also to ensure that they have all their books and equipment ready for school the next day
- **Check that all homework is complete and then sign the homework journal.**

What happens when homework is not done?

- Pupil may be requested to do the incomplete homework in addition to the homework prescribed for that evening.
- Pupil may be requested to do the homework at the weekend
- Pupil will be put on detention and miss some leisure time in order to complete their work
- When pupils fail to do their homework on a regular basis, parents may be invited to come to the school to discuss how the matter may be resolved.

Parents are advised to discuss ongoing challenges and issues regarding homework with the class teacher or principal.