

**Holy Family Junior School,
Aughnaharna,
Portlaoise.**

Vision / Guiding Principles:

Holy Family Junior School seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential in a Christian, caring environment. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.

Aims:

- To consolidate the daily work done in the school.
- To benefit pupil learning.
- To develop study skills.
- To allow the child to work independently.
- To give feedback to the teacher.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- To prepare children for the heavier burden of homework in the senior classes and in post primary school.
- To allow children to develop research skills.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.
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Rationale:

As outlined above, homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects, assessment folders, diagnostic and standardised tests all lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of a pupil's progress and development as they move through the school.

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in Holy Family Junior School we 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 in more senior classes, in post-primary 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.

Types of homework:

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.

Because homework is related to school work it is part of a carefully devised learning programme. It usually consists (and depending on ability and class level) of a combination of reading, written and oral work. Oral work may include tasks such as learning tables, learning spellings, poetry and learning off facts. Written work may include work from a variety of subjects such as language, mathematics, history/geography and religion. However, as stated above, the type and amount of homework given will vary depending on the class of the child.

Time for homework:

In the Junior Infant classes, the parents of the children are informed of which subjects will form the homework each evening. In Senior Infants the children receive a homework sheet each Monday. The children in First and Second Class use a homework diary.

- An estimated / average time for each class is as follows:
Junior Infants: 10-15 minutes
Senior Infants: 20-30 minutes
1st and 2nd classes: 20-30 minutes

These times are guidelines. The issue of how much time a child should spend on homework is difficult to specify exactly in that it depends on a number of factors including:

- the child's age.
- the child's level of concentration.
- the time of day/night that homework is undertaken.
- home factors such as distractions, demands of younger children, etc.
- the child's learning ability.

However, if a child is finding homework difficult to complete and it is taking more than the guideline time, the teacher and parent might confer on same with a view to reducing the time spent. This might be done through a change in homework practice or in further differentiation of the homework.

Homework is normally / usually assigned Monday to Thursday (September-June).

Homework missed due to illness does not normally have to be completed.

Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day and parents are encouraged to read to younger children every day.

Also ,the nature of and time spent on the homework assigned will inevitably change during the school year and event / occasions / themes such times as Book Week, Christmas, Communion, Parent-Teacher meetings etc may impact on this.

Ratified by BoM on:

Signed (Chair., BoM):