**St. Cronan’s Junior National School **

**Homework Policy**

# **Introductory Statement**

This policy was formulated in 1995 and the most recent review in November 2020.

# **Rational**

It provides information for parents, teachers and children in relation to the purpose of homework, the amount of homework assigned and the time involved in completing it. It provides guidelines for good practice for all involved and how remote homework through online platforms is assigned.

# **Aims**

The aims of the policy are:

* To benefit pupil learning.
* To reinforce work done in class.
* To develop study skills.
* To develop independence in completing tasks.
* To strengthen links between home and school.
* To introduce pupils to digital homework.

# **General Guidelines**

**The role of the parent.**

As a parent, you have an important role to play:

* Encouraging your children’s work.
* Observing their work.
* Looking over completed work and signing it/uploading to Seesaw.

It is very important that you help your children with their homework in the most useful way. Try to make sure that children make an honest effort to do the homework without assistance. If they have a difficulty your help should generally take the form of prompting and guiding them towards completing the task that is set. If you have given them a reasonable amount of help and they still cannot complete the task you can then help best by writing a note/email/send a message in Seesaw to the teacher telling him/her of the child’s difficulties.

When your child is doing homework the following routine should be followed early on:

1. Set aside a quiet regular time.
2. The child should be sitting comfortably at a table.
3. Homework time should include time for oral as well as written work.
4. Encourage your child to keep books and copies clean and tidy.
5. If your child is working independently – be available to help and show an interest in what is being done. Praise your child’s efforts at every opportunity.
6. If working with your child you feel yourself becoming impatient – stop.
7. If your child is persistently having problems with homework contact the teacher and discuss the difficulties at an early stage.
8. If, for any reason, homework cannot be done, write a note/email/message via Seesaw to let the teacher know.

Homework is given on 4 nights – Monday – Thursday.

Depending on the needs and standard of the children, the amount of homework will be altered. Differentiation of homework will be pitched to suit the ability level of the class and/or pupil.

# **Junior Infants Homework**

**Junior Infants** will have some formal and informal homework. It may be a homework pack (work sheets/ books), which needs to be completed with the aid of parents/guardians or digitally through Seesaw.

Informal homework:

The aim of these activities is to improve listening and discussion skills at home.

They may include:

* Collecting items e.g. blue, red, yellow etc.
* Bringing in an item e.g. photograph etc.

Formal homework may include:

* Reading activities e.g. Reader words, sights words.
* Writing activities e.g. Letters, words
* Religion activity

Shared reading books and library books will also be distributed during the year.

Parents please remember to search the bags.

**Time: 10-15 minutes maximum.**

## Senior Infants Homework:

It may be a homework pack (work sheets/ books), which needs to be completed with the aid of parents/guardians or digitally through Seesaw. Homework may include:

* Class Readers
* Practice Pages – English / Maths
* Shared Reading
* Workbook Page
* Religion
* Word families / selected pieces of writing when appropriate.
* Sound book/booklet

**Time: 15 – 20 minutes maximum.**

**1st Class Homework**

Homework may include the following:

* Spellings
* Reading
* Written work
* Numeracy
* Literacy
* S.E.S.E
* Religion

**Time: 20-25 minutes maximum.**

## 2nd Class Homework

Homework may include the following:

* Spellings
* Reading
* Written work
* Numeracy
* Gaeilge
* Literacy
* S.E.S.E
* Religion

**Time: 20-30 minutes maximum.**

**Special Provision** is made for children who receive learning support. Priority should be given to the work in their folders and if they want to attempt the general class homework, they may do so but the time appropriate for class should not be exceeded.

Teacher will decide when homework is given.

Children who have specific difficulties may have a buddy system to help them record their homework.

## Journals (1st and 2nd class only)

Homework sheets/copies to be signed by parents/guardians.

The homework is recorded in homework journals.

Parents are expected to sign the journals when they are satisfied that the homework has been completed.

The journal is also used to carry messages re. homework etc. from parent to teacher and teacher to parent. Teachers’ notes written into journal should be signed and likewise for parents’ notes.

If, from time to time, family circumstances mean that the homework cannot be done this should be recorded in the journal.

Homework is in homework copies/work books/work sheets.

## Pupils

The young children who attend our school are learning to be responsible for completing their own work. They need help to settle down and remain on task. The work they do needs to be acknowledged by parents (sign the journal) and teachers (correct the homework – weekly basis).

Good work should always be acknowledged and recognition will be given where appropriate.

Great effort should also be acknowledged.

Persistent or regular failure to produce homework clearly signals a difficulty

In the case of regular failure/problem, teacher will:

* Speak to the child.
* Meet with the parents.
* Agree a way forward with the parent and child.
* Award effort.
* Speak to principal to arrange meeting with parents.

## Success Criteria

Feedback from parents, pupils and teachers.

Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

**The class teacher / Learning Support / Resource** is responsible for giving and correcting homework and monitoring the progress – too easy, too difficult, too much, insufficient.

**The pupil** is responsible for making every effort to do his/her homework.

**The Parent/Guardian** is responsible for providing the correct environment, encouraging the child in completing assignments and signing off on the completed work. Inform class teacher of homework difficulties.

**The Principal** has responsibility for the overall implementation of the policy and its //review if there are particular difficulties.

***Covid 19***

***Due to Health and Safety issues arising from the Covid 19 pandemic, homework will be assigned digitally through the Seesaw App.***

***In order to access the Seesaw App, Parents/Guardians must complete a Google Doc via the school website. Once this is completed, the Parents/Guardians will receive a code from the office. Homework assigned through Seesaw is not mandatory. Homework will be assigned by the class teacher in line with the activities listed above. No copies/paperwork to be sent in and out of school for the moment - work can be uploaded to Seesaw but will not be corrected by teacher as Homework is revision of work done in class. Teacher may leave a comment or emoji!***

If there are any difficulties accessing the Seesaw App, Parents/Guardians should contact the class teacher or send an email to info@stcronansjns.ie

The B.O.M. has officially ratified the policy 24/11/2020 (date).



Signed: Signed: 

 Chairperson BOM Principal