Kennedy Park National School

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**Homework Policy 2014**

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We in Kennedy Park School see homework as a valuable aspect of the learning process and a vital home school link. Our existing policy was reviewed in September 2014 and this policy introduced.

1. ***Why give homework?***
* To re-inforce what the child learns during the day.
* To provide a link between teacher and parent.
* To develop a child’s concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
* Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. 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 – no more, no less.
1. ***How often is homework given?***
* Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.
* Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given “homework off” as a treat or acknowledgment of some special occasion.
* Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.
1. ***What is the content of Homework?***
* Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
* This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to **reading and learning is as important as written work.**
* Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
* Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart” is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.
1. ***Parents and Homework***

Parents should try to help their children with their homework by:

* Providing a suitable place and time to do homework – setting aside a quiet time, or quiet area away from distractions like T.V.
* If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
* Listening to reading, poetry, spellings and tables.
* Parents should check their child’s homework and sign the homework journal every night. The pupil’s journal is an important record of the child’s homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
* Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
1. ***When should parents communicate with teachers about homework?***
* When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
* When your child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspect.
* If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

1. ***Teachers and Homework***

Homework set should – if it is to be of value

* Be relevant to class work
* Reinforce work done
* Be appropriate to the child’s age and learning needs
* Be explained to the children in advance
* Be manageable for the average child within the time recommended
* Be noted in the Journal so that it can be checked by the parent and signed
* Be acknowledged/corrected – with comments and feedback as appropriate
1. ***How much time should be spent on homework?***

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters.

 Junior Infants/Senior Infants 10 to 15 mins

 First class/ Second class 15 to 20 mins

 Third class /Fourth class 30 mins

 Fifth class/Sixth class 45 to 50 mins

**Remember:** If your child is experiencing regular problems with homework please contact the class teacher.

*This revised policy was ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting on 21st October*

*2014. It has been communicated to all staff and parents can download it from the school website. It will be monitored and formally reviewed in 2016/17*