

St Luke's School, Douglas

Homework Policy

Why give homework?

- To re-enforce 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.

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:

- if homework has been neglected during the week
- in senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends
- some reading may be given in the junior classes

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat or as 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.

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, oral tasks 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 helping with items to be learned ensuring that work is done well.

How much (time) 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 that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters.

The following are general guidelines only:

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| Junior Infants | 0 – 10 minutes |
| Senior Infants | approx 20 minutes |
| Rang 1 | approx 30 minutes |
| Rang 2 | approx 40 minutes |
| Rang 3 | approx 50 minutes |
| Rang 4 | approx 1 hour |
| Rang 5 | approx 1-1.5 hours |
| Rang 6 | approx 1-1.5 hours |