**Homework and Corrections Policy March 2010**

**Aims: Why give homework?**

1. Reinforcement of learning.
2. Development of independent working habits
3. A link with home in ongoing communication
4. Opportunity to enhance the relationship between parent and child.
5. Opportunity for child to develop organisational skills i.e. meeting deadlines, time management.
6. Opportunity to access other resources, or use resources not available in school.
7. Opportunity for child to work at own pace.

**Guidelines: When is homework given?**

* During a normal week homework is set Monday to Thursday, but not on Fridays. Exceptions are
* A special assignment or project-type work can be given at week-ends.
* Children can be asked to complete homework at the weekend neglected during the week.
* Exercises that are given as a sanction may have to be done at the week-end.
* Work may be sent home (if requested by parents) if children are unable to attend school due to injury or illness e.g. broken bone. This will normally apply if a child is absent for five days or more.
* Teachers are not expected to do anything to facilitate parents taking children on holidays during term time and therefore work will not be sent home with children, to do while they are on holidays.
* Exemption from homework may occur on rare occasions for the school as a whole and for a particular class, at the teacher’s discretion.
* Extra work may be given as a sanction in certain circumstances.

**Content of Homework**

* The content of homework will consist of a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and writing tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day.
* Regular homework will include spellings, reading, tables, writing, maths and learning by rote. Other homework can include drawing, colouring, collecting information, collecting items, completing project work or completing work started in class.
* Children in the same class may have different homework i.e. different tasks and different volume, depending on capability.
* The class teachers and the support teachers will consult and agree appropriate homework for children who are attending support teachers.

**Time Allocation**

JI- up to 10 mins, SI- up to 15 mins , 1st /2nd-up to 30 mins, 3rd/4th- up to 45 mins, 5th/6th –up to 60 mins

**Responsibilities: Ensuring that homework is done is seen as a shared responsibility between child, parents and teacher.**

**Child’s Role:**

1. It is the child’s responsibility to do homework to the best of his/her ability.
2. Children are responsible for ensuring that they have the correct homework recorded and that they have the books and copies required to do the homework.
3. Homework should be presented neatly and should always be clearly legible.

**Parents’ Role:** How can parents help?

Children need to be encouraged and supported:

1. Select a regular time for homework. Allow for peace and quiet. Ensure exercise is done at table/desk. Ensure no distractions e.g. T.V. Be available to assist.
2. Parents should be aware that reading is part of homework and should be heard from time to time by parents up to fifth class.
3. Parent to sign diary or someone authorised by the parent i.e. child-minder, but not a brother or sister.
4. Parents may be asked to sign a Homework Note to indicate their awareness that their child has not being completing homework.
5. Parents should communicate with teacher about homework by writing a note in the homework journal which the child can show the teacher. This should be done when:

* The time being spent on homework is often longer than that recommended.
* Your child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspect.
* Your child cannot do homework due to family emergencies.

**Teachers’ Role**

1. To encourage pupils to do their homework, to acknowledge their efforts and to outline areas that could be improved.
2. Talk to the children from time to time about the value of homework and its presentation.
3. Check homework diaries, by using spot checks and ensure that each child has his/her diary checked at least once per week.
4. All homework and written schoolwork will be corrected regularly using whatever method is appropriate e. g. block by teacher, supervised self-correcting, swopping copies and correcting under supervision, individually. Work not corrected individually can then be checked by the teacher.
5. Corrections may focus on a specific area being taught in class e.g. capital letters.
6. Teachers will endeavour to use a suitable level of correction that gives direction to the pupil but does not impede the pupil’s academic self esteem.