**HOMEWORK POLICY**

**Introduction:**

This policy was developed by the Principal and teaching staff of Murrintown N.S and will be ratified by the Board of Management in due course. It is envisaged that it will be distributed to the Parents Council Committee, in order to gain their views and feedback. Once this process is completed, the policy will be circulated to all parents in order to enlist their co-operation in implementing the provisions.

**Rationale:**

The purpose of developing this policy is mainly to provide a guideline and co-ordination between classes regarding the amount and difficulty level of homework to be prescribed and to ensure a natural development of these aspects, as the child progresses through the school.

**Aims:**

* To ensure that homework prescribed is meaningful, worthwhile and related to the programme being pursued by the pupil in class.
* That the homework prescribed is suited to the age and ability of each pupil
* That the homework provides a reinforcement of aspects of the curriculum which are current in the classroom.
* That homework provides an opportunity for positive interaction between parent and child in the home.

**Content:**

1. Pupils are obliged to carry out homework prescribed by their class teacher and/or other support teachers.
2. Any homework prescribed should be explained carefully and fully, so that the pupil feels confident when carrying it out, and homework therefore becomes a positive experience.
3. Each pupil is required to have a Homework Diary in order to write down the required homework each day.
4. Homework will be given on week nights only in Junior classes. Classes up to 4th are free from homework at weekends, while 5th and 6th class teachers will retain the option of week-end homework.
5. Homework will consist of both oral (e.g. spelling, reading, tables) and written assignments (e.g. maths, comprehension exercises, creative writing and project work). Both are viewed as equally important and should be give equal amounts of focus and attention.
6. The pupil should have a specific, quiet area within the home in which to carry out their work.
7. The child should be allowed to complete their homework without interruption, with televisions and music etc switched off.
8. Homework should be carried out as early as possible in the evening and at the same time each day, in order to establish a routine.
9. The standard required of work done at home is similar to that which is required of work carried out in class under the teachers supervision.
10. It would be most helpful if parents would assist in the implementation of this policy by supervising and checking their children’s homework when it is completed. They should sign their child’s Homework Diary to confirm completion of homework.
11. The specific amount of time given to homework should generally be as follows:

Junior/Senior Infants: 10 - 15 mins

First/Second Class: 15 - 20 mins approx

Third/Fourth Class: 20 - 30 mins approx

Fifth /Sixth Class: 45 - 50 mins approx

1. If parents perceive a problem when their child is doing homework, they should communicate this to the teacher by way of a note in the child’s Homework Diary.
2. If homework is not carried out for a legitimate reason, the parent should inform the teacher with a written note.
3. Failure to carry out homework is a breach of conduct, as outlined in the school Code of Discipline and will be dealt with through imposing sanctions, such as detention during playtimes and/or giving homework at weekends.
4. A number of our pupils attend an after school child care facility at the Totsv to Teens Childcare Centre, where they are facilitated in doing their homework. While the staff make every effort to assist the children with their homework, the overall responsibility for the completion and checking of a child’s homework lies with the parent/guardian.

**Success Criteria:**

The following would indicate successful implementation of this policy:

* Pupils carry out homework without fail within the guided time-span
* Feedback from parents regarding homework is generally positive.
* A general improvement is noted in the specific curriculum areas where homework is given.
* The standard of assignments is on a par with those carried out in class.