St. Mary's BNS Homework Policy

1. Introduction

This homework policy reflects the aims of St. Mary's to foster independence, responsibility, and a love of learning. It has been developed in consultation with senior pupils, parents and staff and is reviewed regularly.

2. Rationale

Homework reinforces classroom learning, provides an opportunity for children to develop good study habits, and allows parents to engage with their child's education.

3. Aims of Homework

- To consolidate learning from the classroom
- To develop self-discipline and responsibility
- To promote home-school links
- To support literacy and numeracy development
- To provide opportunities for independent learning

4. General Guidelines

- Weekly homework is given on Monday (or the first day of the school week) and may be completed at times suitable to each household during the week.
- Weekly homework will be posted on Class Dojo or Seesaw on Monday. From September 2025, pupils from first to sixth class will also have a homework journal and will record their homework on Mondays.
- Homework is presented for correction on Thursday evening (online) or on Friday (hard copy.)
- No homework is given on weekends (except for long-term project work, incomplete work or as a catch-up task).
- Children should be able to complete homework independently, with minimal support.

- Homework should be manageable, age-appropriate, differentiated where appropriate, and not a source of stress.
- Reading is a daily priority at all levels.

5. Time Guidelines

The following are approximate times and will vary by child:

Class Level	Time Per Week	Typical Content
Junior Infants	Up to 40 mins	Reading time (with parent), oral language, occasional tasks
Senior Infants	Up to 40 mins	Reading time, phonics, small writing/maths tasks
1st & 2nd Class	Up to 1 hour	Reading time, spelling, maths, written work
3rd & 4th Class	1-2 hours	Reading time, maths, spelling, English/SESE writing
5th & 6th Class	2-3 hours	Reading time, maths, spelling, written work, project work

It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- Teachers assign, explain, and review homework.
- Pupils complete homework as neatly as possible and on time.
- Parents/Guardians support and encourage, without doing the work for the child, and communicate any issues to the teacher.
- Parents/Guardians should check and sign the child's homework journal weekly.

7. Types of Homework

- Reading: Daily reading (independent or with a parent).

- Written Work: Short tasks based on class learning.
- Spelling & Tables
- Research/Projects: Occasionally for senior classes.
- Active homework, wellbeing activities
- Oral language development: talking to parents/guardians about topics covered in class.

8. If Homework Is Not Done

If homework is not completed regularly without a valid reason, the teacher will communicate with parents. The focus is on support, not punishment.

9. Review & Feedback

Homework is corrected regularly. It may be self-corrected or reviewed by the teacher. Feedback is given to encourage progress.

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years in consultation with staff, parents, and the Board of Management.

Ratified by Board of Management: _____ May 2025

Signed:

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John Hughes (Chairperson, Board of Management)

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Principal: Edward O' Riordan

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Date of Next Review: April 2028.