



# Homework Policy

December 2022

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility for life long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education. In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity. This policy has been formulated in conjunction with the National Parents' Council's Guidelines for Homework.

### **Aims of homework**

- To benefit pupil learning.
- To reinforce work done in class.
- To develop simple study skills that will make the transition from primary to secondary school easier.
- To strengthen links between home and school (Homework diary with parent / teacher comments).

### **General Homework Information**

- All classes will get homework on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. As outlined in our Code of Behaviour Policy, homework may be given on Fridays for the following reasons:
  - a) If homework has been neglected during the week.
  - b) If the teacher deems it appropriate to assign extra homework as a result of inappropriate behaviour.
  - c) If the teacher feels that the child would benefit from an extra day's homework.
- Occasionally, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework pass' as a treat, reward, or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion. The homework pass often refers to written homework only, meaning that learning homework will still have to be completed.
- In an effort to encourage children to go outside and actively play, we give reduced homework in June.

### **Why does my child get homework?**

Your child gets homework to:

1. Practice and reinforce work already done in class.
2. Test your child's understanding of work covered or competence in skills.
3. Provide an opportunity for the child to work independently and develop self-discipline
4. Provide an opportunity for your child to use non-school resources (parents, library, environment, media and internet).
5. Provide a means by which you, as parents, can see the sort of work which your child is doing in school, and this in turn will enable you to assess their progress.
6. Engage you as partners in your child's education in an active way

### **Guideline target times for homework are as follows**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| a) Junior Infants and Senior Infants           | 10 – 20 minutes |
| b) 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> classes | 20 – 30 minutes |
| c) 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> classes | 30 – 40 minutes |
| d) 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> classes | 40 – 60 minutes |

We must stress that these are suggested target times. In practice, the time taken will depend on the individual child.

### **Homework content**

- Homework will usually 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.

- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be ‘learned by heart’, collecting information / items and finishing work started in class.
- Homework in Junior and Senior Infants will focus on preliminary letter sounds, sight words, reading, drawing, matching shapes and pictures or listening to stories read by parents
- 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 that work is done well.  
**Homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.**
- Gaeilge homework given will be a recap of what the children did during the day and each child should be able to complete it **without** the help of an adult.

#### **Pupils should**

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary.
- Ensure that they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly.

#### **Parents/Guardians should:**

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organize themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupils should have the homework journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and television.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Inform the class teacher if their child is spending much longer than the guideline times above to complete their homework.
- Sign the homework diary, checking that all homework is complete.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework diary, copies, pencils, maths equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework diary.
- Inform the teacher on the rare occasions that homework has not been completed and the reason why.

#### **Teachers should:**

- Where possible give children a choice of different homework to be completed
- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties.
- Notify parents/guardians if homework is regularly incomplete.

### **How often do teachers monitor homework?**

Ideally, teachers check homework on a daily basis. However, it is not always possible to check each child’s homework journal every day. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once a week. Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

## What happens when homework is not done?

As a result of feedback from parents in a questionnaire in October 2022, if homework is not fully complete on the first night it is sent home once again for completion. However, if it is not completed after being sent home, it is completed during lunch time and if necessary the child may be kept back after school. The parents will be notified if a child is to be kept back. The teacher may also contact the parents / guardians with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parents / guardians and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved. Each month, the number of days a child has incomplete homework will be noted clearly in the monthly report.

Ratified by the Board of Management on the December 13/12/22

Signed: Raymond Hughes

Raymond Hughes  
Chairperson